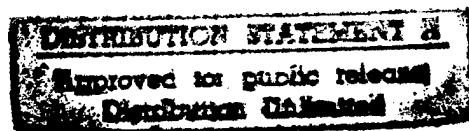


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SOUTH AFRICA

Spokesman Outlines ANC Views on Nuclear Issues

MB1610124592 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1000 GMT 16 Oct 92

[Text] The African National Congress says it believes Africa should be nuclear free, and that a future South African government will have to deal with the nuclear capacity of the country in a responsible way.

Speaking on nuclear issues at this week's ANC forum on environmental policy, Prof. Albie Sachs of the organization's environmental desk said the whole issue was shrouded in secrecy.

He said the public had the right to know whether South Africa had developed or tested a nuclear bomb, and if it was selling nuclear materials to other countries.

Prof. Sachs said nuclear power was a highly sensitive issue, which would have to be discussed nationally and internationally by a future government.

Grachev: Russian Missiles Have No 'Specific Targets'

*OW1510021292 Beijing XINHUA in English
0138 GMT 15 Oct 92*

[Text] Moscow, October 14 (XINHUA)—Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said part of Russia's strategic nuclear missiles have been allowed to stand down from war preparedness. Those still "on duty" are not aimed at specific targets.

He did not disclose how many missiles have been rid of duty and how many are still in use.

In a meeting with journalists, the minister said all the strategic nuclear missiles deployed in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan have been allowed to stand down from combat vigil.

The minister noted this is the last year of a unilateral suspension of nuclear tests by Russia. If the United States could give a positive response, Russia would like to extend terms of the nuclear test suspension, he added.

The minister said Russia also would set up a new military unit called the mobile force to deal with possible outside invasions.

Nepal Forum on Denuclearization of Korea Reported

*OW1710081592 Beijing XINHUA in English
1324 GMT 16 Oct 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, October 16 (XINHUA)—Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is a pressing issue in international politics as well as the precondition for Korea's reunification and peace, said a senior official of the International Liaison Committee for Peace and Reunification of Korea.

Guy Dupre, secretary general of the committee, was delivering his report to the two-day International Conference for Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which opened here today.

Attending the conference were Beni Bahadur Karki, chairman of the Nepalese upper house, Man Mohan Adhikari, president of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), and 150 delegates of 30 delegations from 20 countries including France, Japan, Australia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Algeria, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

"The adoption and effectuation of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South and the joint declaration of denuclearization was a remarkable success in the history of Korea's reunification movement," Dupre said. He demanded "immediate implementation of the agreement and the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea."

Dupre stressed that in order to remove the nuclear threat in the Korean peninsula, "The U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea must be, first of, pulled out and confirmed."

The conference adopted a resolution reconfirming that "the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea is necessary for removing nuclear menace, materializing denuclearization, guaranteeing peace and accelerating peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula."

The conference also adopted a letter to the U.S. President and a letter to the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Russia's Yeltsin Extends Nuclear Test Ban

*OW1910163092 Beijing XINHUA in English
1604 GMT 19 Oct 92*

[Text] Moscow, October 19 (XINHUA)—President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Monday [19 October] extending Russia's nuclear test moratorium until the middle of next year.

A statement issued by the president's press office said the decree extended the ban till July 1 1993. The decree must have a formal approval by the Supreme Soviet legislature, the statement said.

The decree is seen as a response to similar decisions taken by the United States and France early this year.

The U.S. announced in July that it would limit the number of nuclear weapons tests to six each year, and that tests would be conducted only to check the safety and reliability of weapons.

France announced in April it would halt its nuclear tests in the south Pacific.

The Russian president also called on other nuclear powers to join Russia for a permanent universal test ban treaty.

"If the other nuclear powers follow the example of Russia, France and the United States, it will provide a real opportunity for fulfilling humanity's long-sought dream of completely and forever banning nuclear testing, which already has done significant damage to the environment," the decree said.

UN Envoy Offers Nuclear Disarmament Proposal

*OW2110210892 Beijing XINHUA in English
2101 GMT 21 Oct 92*

[Text] United Nations, October 21 (XINHUA)—China has put forward here a three-point proposal for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons.

The proposal, made by Ambassador Hou Zhitong of China at the first committee of the U.N. today, calls on

all nuclear-weapon states to follow China's lead in committing not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and unconditionally not to use or threaten to use such weapons, against non-nuclear-weapon states.

It urges all other nuclear-weapon states to support, as China has done, proposals for establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, respect the status of such zones existing and undertake corresponding obligations. It calls on the countries that have deployed nuclear weapons abroad to withdraw all these weapons.

As the third point of the proposal, the ambassador said, the principle of peaceful use of outer space should be observed; research, test, production and deployment of space weapons be stopped immediately; and weapon systems not be introduced into outer space.

On disarmament and arms control, the ambassador said these issues are directly linked with every country's rights and interests as well as international peace and security. Therefore, all countries in the world, big or small, strong or weak, have the right to participate on an equal footing in the discussion and settlement of such issues.

He opposed the attempt of a country to interfere in and obstruct normal cooperation between sovereign states under the pretext of preventing arms proliferation.

He strongly rejected the blatant violation of the norms of international relations and even one's own commitment to international agreement by grossly interfering through arms transfer in another country's internal affairs.

"Such practice of double standards and breach of faith in the field of arms control is both typical of hegemonism and power politics, and detrimental to international peace, security and stability," he added.

With a view to promoting disarmament and security in the Asia-Pacific region, the ambassador said that his country attaches great importance to maintaining security and stability in the region and to developing friendly relations with all neighboring countries.

All countries in the region, he said, should respect each other, treat each other with sincerity, cooperate with each other on an equal footing and live in amity.

No country in the region should set up or participate in a military bloc and seek regional hegemony; all countries in the region should settle territorial dispute as well as other problems left over from history through peaceful means, instead of resorting to force or threat of force.

He said in conclusion that China will closely cooperate with other countries in the field of disarmament security and make its contribution to the success of the work of the committee.

Soviet Union Held 727 Nuclear Tests in Kazakhstan

*OW2310031792 Beijing XINHUA in English
0312 GMT 23 Oct 92*

[Text] Alma-ata, October 22 (XINHUA)—The former Soviet Union conducted as many as 727 nuclear explosions at 28 different nuclear testing sites located in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

These statistics are the result of the Kazakh ecology and biological resources department having carried out a vast amount of investigations.

According to statistics, the former Soviet Union during the past 40 years had conducted a total of 689 nuclear explosions at the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground.

In addition, the former Soviet Union conducted 38 nuclear explosions at 27 other nuclear test grounds.

The second biggest testing ground in Kazakhstan is located in west Kazakh Atyrauskaya where the former Soviet Union conducted 17 nuclear test explosions.

Eight nuclear explosions were held in the Ural mountain area in west Kazakh. The rest of the explosions were held in Aktyubinsk, Akmolinsk, Mangistauk and Shimkent.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbyev issued an order in August 1991 to close the semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground and to prohibit any other nuclear tests in the Kazakh republic.

INDONESIA

UN Urged To Focus on Disarmament Process

*BK2310103492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0906 GMT
23 Oct 92*

[Text] New York, Oct 23 (OANA-ANTARA)— Welcoming some encouraging developments in arms limitation and international security talks, Indonesia urged the United Nations to focus its role on arms reduction especially efforts to speed up multilateral disarmament process.

Indonesian permanent representative to the UN Nugroho Wisnumurti here on Wednesday told the UN Commission I which deals with political and security affairs that disarmament, security, economic progress, as well as sustainable development can only be implemented by improving the process and mechanism of international decisions making.

Some encouraging developments in international affairs, he said, include completion of the US-Russia strategic arms reduction talks (START), statements from Russia, France, and the US on the suspension of nuclear experiments, expansion of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) membership, and completion of chemical weapons convention.

These will lead to a new international climate which would provide more opportunities for the achievement of world peace, security and economic progress, Ambassador Wisnumurti said.

He said the recent 10th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Jakarta also identified the fact that most agendas on disarmament have not been fulfilled.

Ambassador Wisnumurti said that Indonesia will support United Nations' steps to build mutual respect and trust in international affairs.

If the principle of mutual respect and trust can be applied in all regional conflicts it is likely that in the future various kinds of dispute and conflict can be prevented from taking place, he said.

Indonesia is a [country] which has been involved in the process of negotiation at the UN disarmament conference in Geneva on chemical weapons from the beginning, he said.

The draft on such weapons is scheduled to be ratified by UN General Assembly this year.

Ambassador Wisnumurti believed that the draft will be very important for the international society, particularly developing countries sensitive to the use of such weapons.

But, he reminded that chemical trade and cooperation aimed at increasing development should not be obscured by unilateral or discriminative limitations.

Developed countries, must give more chances to developing ones to create and develop technology for peaceful purposes, he said.

JAPAN

Russian Moratorium on Nuclear Tests Welcomed

*OW2010123092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1159 GMT
20 Oct 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 20 KYODO—Japan welcomes Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision Monday to extend Russia's moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons for another eight months, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters that Russia's decision to extend the moratorium until July 1, 1993 is "consonant with the recent noteworthy trend toward a nuclear test ban."

The U.S. Congress earlier this month pressed U.S. President George Bush to suspend nuclear tests until July 1993. The suspension is to be operable on the condition no other country makes nuclear explosions within that time.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced a one-year unilateral moratorium which took effect in October 1991 and was to last one year.

Hanabusa said Japan hopes the Russian moratorium "will long [as received] be maintained beyond July of next year."

NORTH KOREA

Greetings Sent to Denuclearization Conference in Nepal

*SK1610062792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT
16 Oct 92*

[Text] Pyongyang October 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] on October 16 sent a message of greetings to the international conference supporting the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula which has opened in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, on the initiative of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace of Korea.

The message said:

We believe that the international conference will mark an important milestone in inspiring the Korean people in the efforts to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and the common cause of mankind for building a free and peaceful new world without nuclear threat. Regarding it as one of the fundamental problems to ensure peace and security on the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, in Asia and the world, to get

EAST ASIA

the nuclear weapons of the United States withdrawn from South Korea, our party put forward a proposal for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula many years ago and has made tireless efforts for its realization.

The adoption and effectuation of the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula along with the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange between the North and South of Korea is a brilliant fruition of the consistent anti-nuclear and peace policy of our party and its persistent efforts for its realization.

The WPK and the Korean people will discharge their noble obligations and duties for the cause of peace in Asia and the world by making all efforts for the complete peace on the Korean peninsula.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express deep thanks to the governments, political parties, organizations and figures of different countries who are actively supporting the just cause of the WPK and the Korean people for the denuclearization and peace on the Korean peninsula and the reunification of the country.

SOUTH KOREA

North Accused of Stockpiling BW, CW, Equipment

SK2310045192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0410 GMT
23 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea has manufactured and stored biochemical weapons of mass destructive power since the late 1960s and is believed to have set up strategies to use them, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) said Friday.

North Korea began to develop biochemical weapons in late 1960s upon the order of President Kim Il-song and has cultured 13 kinds of bacteria including yersinia pestis, bacillus anthracis, vibrio cholera 01, salmonella typhi, and clostridium botulinum since the 1980s, NSP said in its report to the National Assembly National Defense Committee.

"Only 1.8 grams of yersinia pestis and 4 grams of clostridium botulinum may exterminate the entire population in South Korea," NSP said.

North Korea is capable of producing as much as 200 tons of agar-agar, the medium nurturing the bacteria, annually, and its chemical factories in Sunchon and Aoji may specialize in the production of biological weapons at wartime. Ryongsong and Haesan beer plants may also turn out such weapons, NSP said.

The agency said biological weapons [BW] could be used for a variety of purposes because they are light and easy to carry. They can be used with missiles, trench mortars, An-2 aircraft, helicopters and hand grenades. The weapons may be the choice of spies and guerrillas.

The biochemical weapons can be used even during the peacetime because they are effective in disrupting the public sentiment or assassinate specific figures or residents of an area en masse, NSP said.

North Korea began to manufacture some chemical agents from the early 1970s and to produce in large quantity cyanic chloride, picric chloride, phenol chloride and others at nine plants. The annual production capacity is around 5,000 tons, NSP said.

Some 1,000 tons of the chemical agents are kept at six storages across the country, it added.

North Korea conducted 630 exercises for chemical warfare during 1980-91. In the 1970s, only a score of drills were conducted in the 1970s but the number increased to more than 100 recently, NSP said.

There are two regiments under the general staff of the North Korean People's Army.

The North also has more than 1,000 poison-counteracting vehicles and 500 detection mobiles and anti-gas masks have been distributed not only to the military but also to most of the ordinary people, NSP said.

North Korea, if it strikes South Korea in a desperate effort to maintain its system, is believed to mobilize chemical weapons [CW] to break through the frontline in a short while, the agency said.

It said North Korea would utilize chemical weapons as the most effective card in mounting political and psychological threats to South Korea.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Foreign Military Officers Monitor Army Division
AU2110143292 Prague CSTK in English 1405 GMT
19 Oct 92

[Text] Brno, South Moravia, Oct 19 (CSTK)—According to Russian Military Attaché in Czechoslovakia General Yevgeni Khrisanov, one of the most important problems in dividing the Czechoslovak Army will be the division of the Air Force and the Anti-Aircraft Defence.

Khrisanov said this today at the Brno Military Academy which he visited together with a group of 20 foreign military and air force attaches from the United States, Great Britain, France, Austria, Switzerland, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Korea, Vietnam, and Cuba. They are in Czechoslovakia to monitor the current situation in division of the Czechoslovak Army linked to the country's split into two independent states in January.

Khrisanov told CSTK that what is to be divided is not only the army but the whole strategic area occupied by Czechoslovakia.

The general thinks that also problematic will be the division of military equipment, and relocation of soldiers and individual commands in the two republics.

In Brno the group was acquainted with the premises and equipment of the Academy, as well as with the structure and latest changes in its activity.

On Tuesday [20 October] the foreign guests will visit the Air Force unit in Námešť nad Oslavou, South Moravia.

Envoy Addresses UN on European Security, Arms Cuts

LD2210123192 Prague CSTK in English 1004 GMT
22 Oct 92

[Report by unidentified CSTK correspondent]

[Text] New York, Oct 22 (CSTK)—The Czechoslovak foreign policy focuses mainly on maintaining the country's security, because as a small state it cannot rely on military force, Eduard Kukan, Czechoslovak ambassador to the UN, said on Wednesday [21 October] in the UN General Assembly's Political Committee.

Czechoslovakia supports the idea of collective security and this is also reflected in its stance towards many

international diplomatic talks and agreements, Kukan pointed out. The concept of European security is only at its beginning, though it is being worked out already for a third time in this century, Kukan said.

Nevertheless, Czechoslovakia believes that negotiations within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) are the proper way towards security. It is necessary to include the European system into the world one and to link it with the UN. That is why Czechoslovakia has proposed cooperation between the CSCE and the UN to be discussed in the UN General Assembly, Kukan said. As for international disarmament talks, Czechoslovakia supports liquidation of chemical weapons, a maximum reduction of the current stockpiles of nuclear weapons and a worldwide nuclear proliferation ban, Kukan said.

In connection with this Czechoslovakia pushes for the gradual restriction and termination of all nuclear tests, he said and added that it also supports strict control of all sales of material and technology that could be used in the production of mass destruction weapons. Czechoslovakia also supports the proposal to set up an international register of trade in conventional weapons, Kukan stressed.

POLAND

Tank Destruction Begins Under CFE Treaty
LD2710103892 Warsaw PAP in English 2103 GMT
26 Oct 92

[Text] Katowice, Oct. 26—The destruction of tanks that have been withdrawn from the Polish Army equipment was started on Monday [26 October] at Dabrowa Gornicza, southern Poland, in line with the 1990 treaty on reducing conventional arms [CFE].

The demolition is carried out by the HK-Cuttiron Metal Scrap Processing Enterprise under the supervision of an international CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) commission.

The first lot of 43 T-55 tanks will be destroyed during 2 or 3 days. They are part of 1,120 tanks which are to be withdrawn from service within 40 months after the treaty came in force last July. Some 300 tanks will be turned into scrap in the first stage, Col. Wojciech Zemla of the Polish Army Chief Technology Inspectorate said. Observers from Britain, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Spain and the U.S. watched the operation at Dabrowa Gornicza.

ARGENTINA

Possible Tlatelolco Treaty Ratification Viewed

PY2210150792 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1713 GMT 21 Oct 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Oct (NA)—The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) today expressed its "full satisfaction" with the development of the process which may lead to the ratification of the Tlatelolco Treaty by the Argentine Congress.

In a communique, CNEA Chairman Manuel Mondino said: "This is the culmination of a process that began on 28 November 1990 with the joint Argentine-Brazilian declaration of Foz de Iguazu."

Mondino added: "CNEA officials are working intensely to overcome all technical barriers. We can now see with full satisfaction that even Hans Blix, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is praising this effort."

The Tlatelolco Treaty bans nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was signed by Argentina in 1967 but was never ratified. Congress is considering this situation and will decide whether to ratify it or not.

Mondino said: "CNEA activities have always revolved around the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and the ratification of the treaty is the best way to consolidate that situation."

INDIA

Stand on Nonaligned Disarmament Statement

'Global Approach' vs. Nuclear-Free Zones

92WC0004A Madras *THE HINDU* in English 5 Sep 92
p 9

[Article by Malini Parthasarathy: "India Isolated on Nuclear Free Zones"]

[Text] Jakarta, Sept. 4. Although India has succeeded in placing global disarmament at the focus of this summit's approach on the disarmament question by an emphasis on the need "for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction," it found itself completely isolated on the issue of nuclear free zones [NFZ's] with the result that a piquant inconsistency has arisen in a paragraph of the declaration on disarmament.

Most of the Indian amendments designed to emphasise the need for a global approach got through, including the placing of the chemical weapons convention as the centrepiece of the formulations in order to emphasise this as a model of a non-discriminatory agreement that confers an equal obligation on all parties.

Thus the formulation reads: "They noted the conclusion of the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on the prohibition of development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and called upon developed States to adopt measures promoting universal adherence to the convention and the transfer of technology materials and equipment for peaceful purposes amongst State parties to the convention and welcomed it as a meaningful step forward towards elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and towards the shared objective of general and complete disarmament."

Oddly enough, India's satisfaction at this emphasis has been diluted in another paragraph relating to non-proliferation. In a paragraph which begins with the objective of total global disarmament is a sentence which says that nuclear weapons free zones are a necessary first step to global disarmament. Indian delegates in the political committee took the floor to explain that this sentence would nullify the meaning of the earlier formulations stressing a global approach to disarmament. Yet the other delegations appeared unconvinced by the Indian arguments and in particular the African group was insistent that this sentence be retained. India lost this round and the sentence remains in the disarmament paragraphs, as an obvious inconsistency in the reasoning. India will table a reservation on this paragraph.

There is an attempt to mitigate the damage in another amendment which qualifies the recommendation for regional disarmament arrangements with the caveats that these must depend on the "characteristics of the region" and that countries must "freely" enter into such arrangements, implying that these cannot be forced on any country.

On nuclear nonproliferation, India had tabled an amendment saying that "all States should have unhindered access to and be free to acquire technology, equipment, materials on a non-discriminatory basis for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries." India had a hard time getting this amendment through which it finally did because of opposition from Saudi Arabia and Egypt. However one sentence that India wanted saying that "they deplored the pressures and threats directed against developing countries aimed at preventing them from pursuing their programmes for the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes" was not carried by the consensus and finally dropped.

India also managed to get into the declaration despite the objections of Saudi Arabia and Egypt a reference to the restrictions being placed on the export of dual use technology to developing countries. This was an implied reference to India's own difficulties with the United States over the cryogenic engine controversy and the subsequent curbs on India's space programme.

The amendment which has finally been accepted is "the Heads of State or Government noted with concern the growing restraint being placed on access to technology by the developed countries through the imposition of ad hoc export control regimes on the pretext of nonproliferation as these may impede the economic and social development of developing countries." And in another sentence that is a victory of sorts for the Indian point of view "they called for effective means of tackling the problems of proliferation through multilaterally negotiated universal comprehensive non-discriminatory disarmament agreements."

Given the fact that the Indian view that disarmament agreements must be global in scope and non-discriminatory has reflected in different sections of the draft declaration the endorsement of regional nuclear free zones is a logical inconsistency that remains.

Official 'Clarification' on NFZ's

92WC0004B Madras *THE HINDU* in English 12 Sep 92 p 9

[Article: "India Not Opposed to N-Free Zone Idea"]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Sept. 11. India is not opposed to the nuclear-free zone [NFZ] concept provided a proposal on regional disarmament can complement and not substitute the goal of global nuclear disarmament, according to highly placed sources here today.

Further, the sources said, in India's view any such proposal must be based on the specific security environment of the region and include the participation of all the countries in the zone. They affirmed that the views had been incorporated in the declaration at the recently concluded non-aligned summit in Jakarta. They cited its

inclusion as India's contribution on the issue of nuclear disarmament, which figured prominently on the agenda during the summit.

The clarification assumes significance in the context of India's rejection of Pakistan's proposal for a South Asian nuclear-free zone, arguing that only universal elimination of weapons of mass destruction can end the threat of a nuclear attack. Further, India has in the past highlighted the security compulsions of the country, considering the presence of a nuclear armed China on its borders, notwithstanding recent improvement in bilateral relations.

Moreover, the presence of nuclear weapons in some Central Asian countries and the possibility of their proliferation in the region make it unacceptable for India to agree to a South Asia nuclear-free zone.

India's role at NAM meet: In an informal meeting with the press here after his return from Jakarta, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, highlighted India's contributions at the summit. The movement, he said, was now geared to play a 'positive' and not 'reactive' role (this was the focus of the Prime Minister's address) in its efforts towards shaping a new global order. Fears regarding its relevance were now fully allayed, he asserted.

Mr. Faleiro emphasised that India had taken the lead in influencing NAM positions on a wide range of issues, including disarmament (for the first time NAM had agreed to time-bound global elimination of nuclear weapons), environment, terrorism, human rights and development. [passage omitted]

IRAQ

Paper Calls for Nuclear-Free Zone in Region
JN1710143592 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT
17 Oct 92

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 17, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily for today said that the national security of any Arab country was part and parcel of the pan-Arab security.

In a study published today, the daily said that the state of division and weakness in the Arab homeland left the door wide open for the fiercest internal and external challenges to undermine the pillars of the Arab national security.

The daily added that confronting the foreign challenges required an over-all national strategy ensuring the interaction of the basic military, economic and social strategies.

The paper prompted the Arabs to consider possible options to encounter the military challenges facing the Arab nation, including, the Zionist strategic military

challenge, particularly, its nuclear superiority, the matter that could only be achieved through possessing parallel means of deterrence.

AL-QADISIYAH also called for establishing a nuclear arms-free zone in the region, without any bias to the Zionist entity.

ISRAEL

Defense Aide on Arms Control Talks, Arrow Project

TA1810140992 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
18 Oct 92 pp 8, 9, 10

[Interview with David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry, by Avi Bnayahu; in 'Ivri's Tel Aviv office on 14 October]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Bnayahu] Prior to the February arms control committee meeting in Washington, the Israeli Government will have to discuss operative proposals and reach an agreement.

[Ivri] We are now going over all our notes. Our steering and working teams are meeting to discuss what could be reasonably implemented, including timetables, ability, and matters of principle. We will submit our position to the cabinet, which will either accept it or not. Based on that, we will present our positions in the talks to be held in February, apparently in Washington.

[Bnayahu] Part of the political element believes that the area should first be defused of hostility, and only later disarmed. Do you accept this approach, or do you think both should be done in parallel?

[Ivri] Defusing hostility may be another way of saying building trust. In all the seminars and contacts held so far it has been said that building trust is the basis for discussing arms control. All these moves and media coverage are aimed at the same thing. I do not know whether to call it preventing or defusing hostility. I think that building trust is the primary process and, in my opinion, as much was explicitly clear in the speeches delivered by James Baker and by Dennis Ross when they were here.

[Bnayahu] Considering talks held with your negotiating partners and with the Americans, and ongoing talks on all levels in the region and throughout the world, how do you assess the possibility of including countries such as Syria or Iraq, which are very critical to Israel, in the multilateral talks?

[Ivri] In informal talks I have had with other delegations from the region I was led to believe that they were trying to get Syria to join the talks. The more productive the bilateral talks with Syria are, the higher the chances of integrating it in the multilateral talks.

[Bnayahu] Has Egypt undertaken that role?

[Ivri] Not just Egypt, others have also voiced a similar wish. Obviously, Egypt is more active. We know that for a fact, but other countries, too, felt that Syria's absence was a mistake. They relayed this feeling to me.

[Bnayahu] The Arab countries which joined the negotiations—among other reasons, because they recognize Israel's military ability—will presumably initially try to regulate Israel's nuclear issue. How do we prepare for such an offensive, which may be joined by the Europeans, so as not to have the issue raised in the initial stages but put it off to a later stage?

[Ivri] I will not analyze the Arab approach, but I will tell you ours. Our approach is that we will be willing to discuss any issue, including conventional arms. In other words, we will definitely be willing to discuss nonconventional arms, seeing that all the sides are interested in nonconventional disarmament and reaching a situation whereby "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb." However, the problem is that conventional weapons can also be destructive. Ask Kuwait whether if it was destroyed by conventional weapons. Sheer quantities turn these into weapons of mass destruction. As far as small countries go, large quantities of conventional weapons are weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, as far as we are concerned, it is inconceivable that all these issues should not be discussed together. We think that an agreement should include all elements. In my opinion, this approach is constructively correct and also answers all the questions in this region. Namely, you cannot give an answer only to Egypt or to Jordan, but Israel must also be included. Therefore, if we discuss all these issues in conjunction we stand a chance of attaining a comprehensive agreement that will answer almost all the questions.

[Bnayahu] Is it feasible that the arms control talks, which are your area, should precede the bilateral talks, or will the Arabs be very particular about the two tracks running at least a parallel course?

[Ivri] I do not think they can precede the bilateral talks. Certainly peace, or bilateral security arrangements, are more important. The main objective is not to arrange for arms control, but to achieve peace and prevent war. Arms control is one of the means, not the goal. If I can live in peace, the quantities of weapons they or we buy will make no difference to me, because I would be certain that whatever they bought, would not be used against me, and I would have no problem with that. People are wrong in thinking that arms control is the objective. It is merely the means to peace and security. [passage omitted]

[Bnayahu] The Arrow project's development is close to the end of the first stage. The developers are behind schedule, and the stage of missile interception has not been reached yet. At the same time, similar American projects are gathering momentum, and apparently, we are not receiving any information from them. In view of all these, how do you rate the project's relevance?

[Ivri] I have to draw a distinction between the stages. One of them is the development of a missile in cooperation with the United States, which is the principal investor—about 72 percent. This is a demonstration of technology.

After the Gulf war, the field of defense against short- and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles was given special emphasis. The Americans, too, followed that direction. Having defined their targets, they definitely intend to expedite their plan. Judging by all the estimates I have been receiving, it will not be operational before 2001. As for our project, it is anyone's guess when it will be operational. Since we launched the Arrow project around 1986, we are still at a considerable advantage, time wise.

I think we were ahead of others in this field of defense against tactical surface-to-surface missiles, which represent an entirely new area. People are not fully aware of that. In this field, technology is faced with some very tough specific challenges. There was a reason why the Patriots were having problems. It is an excellent missile; in my opinion, it is exceptionally good. But, when it had to be converted to intercept tactical surface-to-surface missiles, problems began surfacing. There was little time, but efforts were made, and I think nice technological achievements were scored. However, that was not enough. Our main problem is the budget—let no man doubt that. Had we had a budget, the project could have been pushed forward. And I am not speaking of the Arrow only, I am speaking of the defense budget. With a limited budget, plans become inapplicable. Our capability to possess a weapon system depends on the budget, and not on deadlines set by people, be they 1995 or 1997.

As for the missile itself, it did perform the element of interception, albeit without a target. True, it was directed at the sun, and we did not intercept the sun.

[Bnayahu] Has the resumption of diplomatic relations with various countries opened up possibilities for defense cooperation and increased defense exports?

[Ivri] Yes. There has been interest. There has been growing cooperation and interest in our defense exports. We are thinking of opening representation in some of the countries which have resumed relations with us—Russia, for instance—and dispatching Army envoys there. This is an objective we would like to realize.

PAKISTAN

UN Delegate Urges 'Global, Regional Approaches to Disarmament'

*BK2310150492 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1400 GMT 23 Oct 92*

[Text] Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation measures and said global and regional approaches to disarmament should be pursued simultaneously as they complement each other. Participating in a debate on disarmament-related issues at the UN General Assembly's main committee

in New York, Pakistan's delegate Syed Rafaqat said since perceived threats to national security are primarily connected with regional conditions, a regional approach offers the most realistic way to make meaningful progress in disarmament. He said Pakistan is willing to accept any equitable and nondiscriminatory regime that would help in keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons. He referred to a number of proposals made by Pakistan for attainment of the objective of denuclearizing South Asia. He specifically referred to the 1991 proposal of the prime minister for a five-nation conference to ensure nuclear nonproliferation in the region.

GENERAL**Grachev on Strategic Forces, Nuclear Testing****Press Conference on Bishkek Results**

*PM1410173792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Report by Nikolay Burbya: "Pavel Grachev: Russian Nuclear Missiles Are Not Aimed at Any Specific Targets, Just in a General Direction"]

[Excerpt] On 13 October Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev met in his office with Soviet and foreign journalists.

Military Results of the Bishkek Meeting

According to the Russian defense minister, one of the chief results of the Bishkek meeting was the definition of the functions of strategic nuclear weapons and the mechanisms controlling them.

Who will control the strategic nuclear forces? The Russian president and Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, as before. Although the Bishkek meeting did study the question of transferring the Ukrainian "nuclear button" to a third person—the Russian defense minister. But the matter was not finally decided.

The missiles on the territories of Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan have now been taken off alert duty and put in reserve. According to Pavel Grachev, they can only be used with the consent of the presidents of those states for a follow-up [posleduyushchiy] nuclear strike. But the Russian minister does not believe that this eventuality is possible.

As for the territory of the Russian Federation, some of the strategic missiles have already been stood down, while those that are on alert duty have no specific targets. They are just aimed in a general direction, no more than that.

Russia Is Ready to Ban Nuclear Explosions Altogether

As is known, the Russian unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests at the Novaya Zemlya site expires this year. But there has been no decision yet on resuming tests. The defense minister intends to propose a resumption of nuclear explosions. Although they will not be conducted in the same quantity as before; there will be far fewer. This decision is prompted by the fact that, aside from France, other leading nuclear powers did not join the moratorium. But if the United States were to join the moratorium, Russia would prolong its "nuclear silence."

The military contingent on the island of Novaya Zemlya will be cut in the very near future. Some radiotechnical companies, two antiaircraft missile divisions, and two air force squadrons will be moved to the mainland. [passage omitted]

Further on Nuclear Testing Remarks

*PM1410210792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 15 Oct 92 p 1*

[Report by Captain 1st Class Vladimir Chupakin: "Trouble Spots, Troublesome Topics. Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev Meets With Russian and Foreign Journalists"]

[Excerpt] On 13 October Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev received a large group of Russian and foreign journalists in his office. The meeting was an informal affair. The journalists were able to get information from the horse's mouth, as it were, on various aspects of Russian military policy, on the situation in the trouble spots, and on many other matters.

One topic that aroused special interest among the foreign journalists was that of the nuclear test site on Novaya Zemlya. The interest is understandable: The term of the moratorium that was unilaterally declared by the Russian side expires very soon and there were many who wondered in this connection: What will happen in the future and on what basis will Russia act in the future? Many were worried about the ecological situation in the vicinity of Novaya Zemlya.

There were items in IZVESTIYA and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the minister noted, about my recent visit to Novaya Zemlya and to the areas where the nuclear tests were conducted. The ecological situation should not give rise to any fears. To confirm this, P. Grachev cited a very eloquent example, saying that the radiation background in his office was 22 milliroentgens per hour, while in the test area instruments were showing only 14.

As for the moratorium, P. Grachev continued, it is operating. No decision has been made on ending it. But certainly one should appreciate that a moratorium cannot continue to operate indefinitely on a unilateral basis. All armaments have to be checked and tested. It is necessary in order to ensure that those who design nuclear weapons and those who maintain them do not lose their skills and in order to check on the safety of the nuclear arsenals themselves.

Certainly we are in favor of continuing the moratorium, P. Grachev stressed. Basically it all depends on the U.S. side. If the United States supports the moratorium and joins it, Russia will not start nuclear tests. But if this does not happen, the minister said, he will make proposals to the president and the Russian Supreme Soviet on the need to resume tests. A resumption, perhaps, not on the same scale as before. It could be, for example, two or three explosions per year. But it will be necessary in the interests of nuclear security.

Asked to explain what technical condition he found the test site in and also whether one could expect tests to resume this very year, if the moratorium is not extended, P. Grachev said that the test site is functional, but there

will be no explosions this year anyway. If need be, nuclear tests could start by the middle of next year.

"If the ecological situation is normal," came a question, "why was a ship from the well-known Greenpeace organization not allowed to go to Novaya Zemlya to take measurements?" No state, the minister replied, would tolerate unauthorized incursions into its territorial waters, no matter what good intentions are cited. Given the proper accords, the proper international commission would be able to visit the test site. We are not opposed to monitoring. Incidentally, a trip by a group of foreign journalists to Novaya Zemlya is scheduled for the very near future. [passage omitted]

Grachev on Nuclear Test Moratorium, Withdrawal of Troops in Baltics

*LD1910135192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1418 GMT 19 Oct 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—Russia may proclaim a moratorium on nuclear tests for the whole of 1993 if the United States agrees to follow suit, according to Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. "However, a moratorium cannot be unilateral permanently. If we do not reach accord, Russia, most evidently, will resume nuclear tests in the middle of 1993", he told Warren Cooper, his visiting counterpart from New Zealand at a meeting on Monday [19 October]. Grachev added the nuclear test issue will be raised during his future visit to the United States.

On Monday President Boris Yeltsin extended the Russian moratorium on nuclear tests until July 1, 1993 and called on Great Britain and China to follow suit.

The Russian minister said the troops stationed in the Baltics should be withdrawn as soon as possible without waiting for the construction of the necessary housing for them in Russia. "I remain a supporter of withdrawing Russian troops from the Baltics right after the pullout from Eastern Europe in 1994", he said, adding the conditions which the Russian troops face in the Baltics call for an urgent withdrawal. "There can be no delay", the minister said. It is better to face criticisms of opponents, who say nothing has been prepared for the pullout in Russia, but withdraw the troops first and then provide housing for them at new places, he explained.

Grachev said that troops are not allowed to move along the territory of the Baltics, to say nothing about military exercises. No young draftees are allowed to arrive there, and soon only officers and hardware will remain in the Baltics. The Army cannot exchange roubles for local currency and there is psychological pressure on the military, the minister said, adding the personnel has to stay in the military townships and has nothing to do there.

Speaking on the elimination of chemical and biological weapons Grachev stressed that Russia has ceased to produce them. "If there are doubts about it we are ready to receive any delegation for inspecting any plant", he said.

Grachev also informed Cooper that armed forces reduction in the Far East will continue. Since the end of the 80s the Pacific Fleet was cut by 77 warships and submarines, the ground forces in the region were reduced by 200 thousand men, he said.

Grachev on Nuclear Testing, Strategic Forces Status

*LD2010195192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Oct 92 First Edition p 2*

[Report on interview with Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev by Vladimir Zelentsov; place, date not given: "I Do Not Believe That Nuclear Strikes Are Possible"]

[Excerpt] With regard to the stylish office where the journalists were invited, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, said: "Don't imagine that I chose it. I inherited it." Fair enough, if that were all.

[Grachev] Before traveling to Novaya Zemlya recently, I measured the background radiation in my office. It was equivalent to 22 milliroentgens per hour. Yet on Novaya Zemlya—where the last nuclear test took place before the moratorium came into force—background radiation was four milliroentgens.

Apart from the test range (which is in working condition), there are other subunits on Novaya Zemlya, too—specifically, troops of the Air Defense Forces. The decision has been made for them to be significantly reduced. Several radar companies, two air defense missile regiment battalions, and one or two fighter regiment squadrons will be transferred to the mainland.

As for the strategic missile troops, those on Russian territory will be partially stood down, while others will remain on combat alert—but the missiles will have no specific targets. Yes, the bearings [napravleniya] have been issued, but the targets have not been defined. Missiles in Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine have been stood down and withdrawn to the reserve. They could be used with their presidents' consent only in the event of a retaliatory nuclear strike. But I do not believe that such strikes are possible. In general, I cannot imagine that a nuclear missile would ever be launched from one continent against another. That would be disastrous. Although, regrettably, many people talk about a modern world war in dilettante fashion, claiming that if there were a conventional war it would not be as terrible as a nuclear war. Let's not be naive. The fact is that even conventional means of attack are mainly targeted on missile installations, nuclear power stations, chemical

plants, and major hydroelectric power stations. So that a nuclear war is possible even if conventional means are used. [passage omitted]

Russian Official Explains Disarmament Approach at UN

*LD2210111892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0820 GMT 22 Oct 92*

[Text] United Nations October 22 TASS—Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament Committee on Defence and State Security Aleksandr Piskunov spelled out Russia's approach to disarmament issues, speaking at the First Committee of the 47th U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday [21 October].

He informed the committee that Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree on October 19, extending the Russian moratorium on nuclear tests till July 1, 1993.

Piskunov stressed that disarmament is among Russia's priority items. "Our country will undeviatingly observe the former Soviet Union's obligations under operating and signed bilateral and multilateral understandings in this sphere.

He stressed that mutual security in line with the new understanding of military-strategic parity (and not the determination of quantitative and qualitative parameters of weapons, as was the case in the past) is the aim of the present efforts to cut armed forces and armaments.

Russia believes it very important to prevent the situation with non-nuclear proliferation from deteriorating as a result of the former Soviet Union's collapse, Piskunov continued.

Obligations assumed by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine to accede to the non-proliferation treaty at the earliest possible time as non-nuclear states are of paramount importance in this context.

The Russian delegate favoured the present practice of Security Council permanent members to concert their actions in arms trade and to complete work at the United Nations on a register of conventional arms.

Speaking of the munitions industry's conversion, he said that Russia supports the idea of setting up a special mechanism at the U.N. on these issues, which would include the main industrialised nations and other interested states.

Russian-Belarusian Consultations on INF, START, CFE Implementation

LD2410165692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Oct 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Two-day Russian-Belarusian consultations on coordinating mechanisms for fulfilling international disarmament treaties have ended in Minsk. A mechanism

was worked out for implementing the treaties on the abolition of medium- and shorter-range missiles, limitation of strategic offensive arms, and limitation of armed forces in Europe. There was discussion of facilities and troop formations situated in Belarus but under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

Igor Sabrykin, Russia's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the Republic of Belarus and leader of the state delegation at the talks, said the documents will be ready for signing by the leaders of the two states by mid-November.

Russia Said Planning To Destroy Nuclear, Chemical Arms Underground

LD2310180292 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1530 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] It is claimed that Russia is planning to destroy nuclear bombs and chemical weapons due for destruction by carrying out underground explosions in Novaya Zemlya. The claim has been made by a Norwegian environmental group, which says that it received the information from high-ranking Russian sources. It is said that the underground explosion method is the cheapest way to get rid of the weapons, the destruction of which has been agreed upon by international disarmament agreements. Ulla-Maria Johansen reports from Oslo.

[Johansen] The Russian Ministry of Defense and the nuclear armament town responsible for the technology for destruction of nuclear weapons, Arzamas 16, are planning to destroy nuclear weapons and chemical weapons by underground nuclear explosions in Novaya Zemlya because this is the cheapest way of getting rid of these weapons. This is claimed by Fredrik Hauge, the head of the Norwegian environmental organization Bellona, who recently visited Archangel, and according to whom deputy leader of Arzamas 16 Aleksandr Kozernyev told him about the Russian plans in detail.

According to the disarmament agreement between the superpowers, Russia must destroy the nuclear warheads of 5,000 medium-range missiles. The dismantling of these would take five years and 10 billion rubles [R]. To destroy them in underground nuclear explosions would cost less than R500 million, and the preparations for the explosion would take less than a year, Fredrik Hauge reports. The plan is to explode 5,000 nuclear warheads simultaneously 600 meters underground inside a mountain in Novaya Zemlya by using a nuclear bomb of 50 kilotonnes. In the explosion, the nuclear warheads would melt and the mountain would form a glass-like shell to form a capsule around the 20,000 kilos of plutonium, Hauge said about the plans of the Russian experts.

This type of nuclear weapons destruction technology has never been tested before in practice, and the Norwegian Nuclear Power Inspection Board, for example, has a very skeptical view on the proposed plans and thinks that implementing these plans would be dangerous.

The aim also is to destroy old chemical weapons, of which there are 40,000 tonnes in Russia, by nuclear explosions in Novaya Zemlya in three explosion operations, each of which would include six simultaneous explosions, that is, 18 nuclear explosions altogether, Fredrik Hauge reported. It is estimated that the destruction technique to be used would cost one-tenth of the cost of dismantling the chemical weapons.

The United States has more money, and it is estimated that the United States will dismantle its 30,000 tonnes of chemical weapons in factories. This is expected to take 100 years if no new factories are constructed. The United States also is going to dismantle the nuclear warheads of the medium-range missiles to be abolished, the head of Bellona, Fredrik Hauge said.

This is Ulla-Maria Johansen reporting from Oslo.

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS

Russian Spokesman: No Delay in START-II Treaty With U.S.

*LD1610134792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1207 GMT 16 Oct 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 16 TASS—Russian-US talks on the preparation of a treaty on considerable cuts in nuclear armaments “will not last long, although it is hard to say when they are to be over”, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing on Friday commenting on US mass media reports that Russia is delaying the talks.

He refused to comment on “technical details” of the preparation of the treaty, but said the general agreement is being transferred into “the language of juridical terms” jointly with the U.S. side at present.

The framework agreement on the preparation of the treaty was signed in Washington in June during the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The presidents of both countries agreed to have the treaty worked out soon.

Yastrzhembskiy said the issue was discussed in detail by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger at their recent meeting in New York, as well as with Frank Wisner, first undersecretary of state, during his visit to Moscow on October 5-7.

Russian Stance on ICBM Silos Said To Weaken Bush in Campaign

*MK1710095592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
17 Oct 92 p 3*

[“Our Commentary” by Mikhail Shchipanov: “Are We Going To ‘Expose’ Bush to Attack?”]

[Text] Unlike other countries, for quite a long time Russia did not display its public preference for either of the present White House contenders. Indeed, the Kremlin is maintaining its verbal neutrality even now. However, recent political demarches indicate that Moscow is not intending to make any gifts to its “dear friend” Bush.

As usual, the Russians unexpectedly hit the President where it hurts by creating some doubts as to the effectiveness of his foreign policy. Of course, on the home straight of the presidential race the average American is far more worried about the problems of his own stomach than about foreign policy matters, which tend not to be very edible. But Bush has made of his external successes a warhorse allowing him to outsmart the inexperienced “provincial,” Clinton. During the first TV debate Bush enthused that the danger of a Russian nuclear attack on America had receded because he, the wise father of the nation, had reached agreement on eliminating the “Red monsters”—the destabilizing multiple-warhead SS-18 missiles, which carry 10 nuclear warheads. This is a strong argument, of course. Even selfish voters in the heartlands care about the joys of life in general terms.

But during the duel between the vice presidential candidates Clinton’s running mate, Senator Gore, declared with ill-concealed triumph that the treaty is not ready because the Russians have made new complaints to the U.S. Administration. And so Bush has not been all that successful in the foreign policy sphere.

Indeed, Moscow is now worried by two basic problems: the possibility of retaining for national defense purposes the underground launch silos from which it is planned to remove the “pensioners,” the SS-18 missiles, by the beginning of the next millennium, and also the newer-generation SS-19 missiles, which it would like simply to disarm until they have just one nuclear warhead, but not to scrap.

Naturally, the Yankees are not delighted by the Kremlin’s new requests, but there is nothing else for it: There will have to be further consultations or negotiations. So Bush is not going to be able to report further successes to the nation before the elections. And Clinton has only to mention in passing that he is not going to let anyone off, will be careful, and will finish the job at last.

Leaving aside the objective demands of national defense, then Moscow, in putting forward its “additions and clarifications” to the treaty only in September, must have been aware that it was ‘exposing’ Bush, the great diplomat, to attack. It remains only to conjecture whether this is a matter of conscious choice or just the usual Russian second thoughts.

U.S. ‘Perplexed’ by Russian Conditions on Treaty

PM2210105992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 18 Oct 92

[Report by P. Kuznetsov; from the “Novosti” newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Reports are coming in from the United States questioning Russia's intention to honor its commitments under the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

[Kuznetsov over video of missiles] On 16 June this year, during his visit to the United States, Boris Yeltsin reached agreement with George Bush on a sensational reduction of strategic offensive arms. By the year 2003 the sides are to be left with 3,500 nuclear warheads each. As part of the compromise, Russia pledged to destroy all its heavy missiles known in the West as SS-18. They are capable of carrying 10 warheads each.

James Baker, U.S. secretary of state at the time, assured Congress that the text of the treaty would be ready by 1 September at the latest. Russia's readiness to act promptly was also stated by its Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

However, according to reports from Washington, during negotiations at expert level, the Russian side has unexpectedly raised a number of questions which have perplexed the Americans. Thus Russia would like to retain the SS-18 missile launch silos in order to place there single-warhead missiles, which are permitted. And second, the Russian experts have declared that they would simply like to remove five warheads from the 6-warhead SS-19's, thus turning them into single-charge or one-warhead missiles which do not contravene the agreement. The Americans do not agree, taking the view that this could not be verified.

People in Washington do not know what is behind the Russian proposals. Is it a question of the experts' customary horse-trading in an attempt to negotiate the most advantageous position for their military-industrial complex, or has Moscow already written off Bush, deciding to wrest additional concessions from Clinton? However, the most likely explanation is considered to be Russia's difficult economic position and its desire to reduce disarmament expenditure to a minimum. For example, it cannot afford to destroy old silos and at the same time build new ones. Be that as it may, the fate of the strategic nuclear arms agreement between Russia and the United States is in question. If for no other reason that in the event of Bush's defeat on 3 November, a transitional period will set in in the United States, when there are two presidents—the one who lost, and the newly elected one who will not be sworn in until 20 January. [Video shows missiles and missile silos, aircraft in flight]

U.S. Said Pushing for START II Before 3 Nov

PM2010160592 Moscow *IZVESTIYA* in Russian
21 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Aleksandr Sychev article: "Washington Rushing Moscow in Hope of Concluding START Treaty Before Presidential Elections"]

[Text] "Hopes that an agreement would be signed between the United States and Russia in the near future

on far-reaching nuclear arms cuts have faded as a result of technical stipulations put forward by Moscow," THE NEW YORK TIMES reported, citing a Bush administration spokesman.

We are talking about the START II treaty on strategic offensive weapons, the general provisions of which were agreed on by the U.S. and Russian presidents in June 1992. Bush and Yeltsin agreed that the two countries would cut their nuclear arsenals to approximately 3,500 warheads on each side, and Moscow and Washington would completely destroy heavy land-based missiles with MIRVed warheads—the most destabilizing type of nuclear weapon.

Nobody could have dreamed of such large-scale disarmament even a few years ago. That is why President Bush's desire to draw attention to the treaty prepared by his administration—thereby highlighting the Democratic candidate's foreign policy inexperience—is entirely understandable. Americans can sleep peacefully now, the President stated during the 18 October election debate. Just a few days later, however, he was accused of lying by A. Gore, the Democratic candidate for vice president. He stated that it was impossible to complete preparation of the treaty because of the Russians' position.

As has been reported in the U.S. press, Moscow has put 17 questions and comments to the U.S. Administration on the text of the treaty. Yet another five-point document was passed to Washington recently. Through them Russia particularly expresses its desire to retain the silo launch installations currently housing the 10-warhead SS-18's. It is planned to place SS-19 missiles, with just a single warhead instead of six, in these silos. This ploy is unacceptable to the United States.

A Russian Foreign Ministry staffer who asked to remain anonymous spoke about the state of affairs with regard to the START II treaty as the Russians see it.

Indeed, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State F. Wisner, who visited Moscow last week for now-traditional consultations, was given five comments on the draft treaty text submitted by the Americans in September. There were also the 17 questions mentioned by THE NEW YORK TIMES which Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev had taken to Washington. The answers to these questions were to have clarified a number of the Americans' formulas.

The U.S. State Department hurriedly compiled its answers, which took it just two days. As a result, many points still were not covered. There was a need for further clarification, all the more so as Washington had set out the framework agreement between the two presidents in treaty language; was giving the United States major advantages; and was seriously infringing Russia's military, political, and economic interests.

The Russian Foreign Ministry staffer particularly stressed that there are no political contradictions

between the two countries. The parameters for the cuts have been defined and will be implemented, but technical problems are cropping up, and an ordinary exchange of views currently is under way, in the course of which the provisions of the new treaty are being formulated.

The SS-18 missile silos are one such technical problem. Under the START I Treaty Russia would destroy 154 of its 308 SS-18's; their silos would be destroyed, too, but the framework agreement between the Russian and U.S. Presidents makes no mention of the other silos from which missiles will be removed under the START II Treaty. The Russian Government, bearing in mind the country's economic crisis and the acute shortage of available funds, would like to use the vacated SS-18 launch installations to house SS-19 missiles. This solution would save the country billions of rubles.

The diplomat rejected as unfounded Washington's claims that the SS-19's housed in the old silos could again be refitted with five warheads. He recalled that under the START I Treaty both sides are entitled to inspect launch installations and to verify the number of warheads on the missiles. The inspecting side names the facility to be checked on its arrival in Moscow. The host side is obliged to transport the inspectors to any missile base within 12 hours and to provide all the conditions for the verification to take place.

The Russian diplomat recalled a statement made by former U.S. President R. Reagan: The worst treaty is one that has to be ready by a fixed date. Russia does not intend to engage in an unthinking formulation of the treaty and will strictly observe its own interests. Moreover, already it can be stated with confidence, he added, that unless there are certain changes to the proposed text of the treaty, the document stands no chance of being approved by the Russian parliament.

Ukrainian Spokesman Confirms Intention To Accede to START

LD2310224692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Ukraine, in the nearest future, has the real intention of joining the START treaty, and to place all its nuclear-powered electricity stations under IAEA control. The report on this by Volodymyr Yelchenko, our state's representative at the special political committee of the UN General Assembly was confirmed today by Yuriy Sergeyev, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center. He said that the question of the initialling of the required documents will take place in the next few days at Supreme Council level.

Yuriy Sergeyev stressed the fundamental wish of Ukraine to fulfill every point of the treaty between the United States and the former Soviet Union on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons and the Lisbon protocol on IAEA control over the peaceful use of nuclear power in countries throughout the world.

Kozyrev on Prospects for Further Strategic Arms Cuts

OW2310184092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 23 Oct 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama" prepared by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, D. Voskoboinikov, I. Porshnev, and others; all quotation marks as received—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpts] On Thursday [22 October] Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev delivered to the parliament an important speech on Russia's foreign policy. However he failed to conclude it because of the strict time-limit. DP [Diplomatic Panorama] has the full text of the foreign minister's speech at its disposal. [passage omitted]

With reference to the further cuts in strategic offensive weapons A. Kozyrev says: "We want arms reductions to be carried out with a minimal expenditure to make it possible to maximally use all that will cease to be arms for economic needs. Besides, strict guarantees for preventing the future agreements from being by-passed should be stipulated."

According to the foreign minister, Russia will continue to proceed from the assumption that "the treaty on strategic offensive weapons will come into force only when Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan join the agreement on nuclear arms non-proliferation in the capacity of denuclearized states."

CIS States, U.S. Agree on JCIC Procedures

LD2410122592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1838 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Geneva, 23 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—Delegations of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and the United States signed an agreement here today on the new procedures regulating the work procedure of the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission [JCIC]. Preparations for this agreement were started earlier this year at the Commission session that convened in Kiev.

The JCIC was established in accordance with the 31 July 1991 START Treaty. Within the JCIC framework, the sides hold meetings with a view to resolving issues relating to the keeping of obligations made under this treaty and with a view to agreeing on additional measures that may be necessary to enhance its viability and effectiveness.

In the new agreement regarding JCIC procedures, the emergence of the new independent states on the territory of the former USSR is taken into account. Accordingly, a mechanism for the participation in the Commission of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine as parties to the START Treaty has been drawn up, as was provided for by the protocol to this treaty signed in Lisbon on 23 May.

Dismantled Missile Sites Earmarked for Commerce

*LD2710140292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1239 GMT 27 Oct 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—Acting Prime Minister of Russia Yegor Gaydar has signed an injunction “on the rational use for economic purposes of missile complexes that are to be dismantled in light of the ongoing reduction and restriction of strategic offensive weapons.”

The document, obtained by ITAR-TASS, approves the proposal to use missile complexes (without nuclear charges), after their modification, for commercial launchings of space vehicles on orders from Russian and foreign firms. The launching installations and missiles, which are not slated for such purposes, will be taken apart and their systems, parts and materials will be used in the national economy or exported. The territories of the launching complexes will be used to set up private farms and to build housing for officers of the Russian Armed Forces.

The injunction also approves the proposal of corresponding Russian ministries and departments to take part in the implementation of the project of the association of business cooperation with foreign states “scientific-technical progress,” the “conversion of submarine ballistic missiles” association, and the “joint stock union for conversion” and “by-products and space industry” joint-stock society.

SDI, DEFENSE & SPACE ARMS

Gaps in Air Defenses Feared; Radar Posts Close
*MK1610090092 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY
in Russian 16 Oct 92 p 7*

[Aleksandr Stukalin report: “CIS Air Defense System Disintegrating. Shaposhnikov Tries To Save Air Shield”]

[Text] Several radar stations of the CIS air defense system in the Pamir in Tajikistan ceased operation yesterday. The CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command is trying to preserve the Commonwealth's unified air defense system.

The air defense radar stations are closing because of the exodus of military specialists and the end of financing by the CIS countries. At the 13 October session of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast Soviet Presidium, a deputy commander of the independent [otdelnyy] air defense army stationed there stated that the enforced disbandment of air defense forces on the Tajik-Afghan border is a problem not of the future but of the present. In his opinion, the closure of a number of radar stations in the Pamir will inevitably lead to the

emergence of sizable gaps, not only in the skies of Central Asia but in the skies over the entire CIS.

Military sources also disclosed that it is planned by April 1993 to disband the 19th Independent Air Defense Army, which is stationed in the Transcaucasus. The Army command regards as unfounded the fears regarding any kind of influence by the Russian air defense troops on the domestic political situation in Georgia, especially as the question of manning their units and subunits with locally drafted soldiers is being discussed. The Russian military are convinced that the consequences of this decision could be “extremely lamentable for Georgia since, with the disbandment of the Army, the air shield, which could also serve the Caucasus republics, will be destroyed.”

Air defense troops were stationed primarily on the borders of the former USSR to resolve their basic defense task—creating an unbroken radar field and effective engagement zone and forming a unified, centrally controlled system. Thus the most powerful troop groupings were concentrated on the territory of the republics. Given the collapse of the union and the formation of republic armies, the continued effective functioning of the unified air defense, space defense, and ABM defense system [sistema protivovozdushnoy, protivokosmicheskoy i protivoraketnoy oborony] is in great doubt.

The CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command is currently making desperate efforts to salvage the situation and, if not to preserve the air defense system in its old form, at least to organize reliable cooperation among the republics in this sphere. At the recent conference of CIS defense ministers in Bishkek, Commander in Chief Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov suggested to the heads of military departments that they urgently preparing an interstate agreement on a unified air defense system. The ministers are to initial this document 4-5 November in Moscow.

Kokoshin Comments on Integrated Antimissile Defense Exercises

*LD2110220792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT
21 Oct 92*

[Report by A. Ukhov, captioned “Oborona-92” exercises; from the “Novosti” program]

[Text] What you are now seeing has never before been seen by anyone. Integrated exercises using all the most up-to-date antimissile defense systems have been held for the first time in a so-called theater of military operations, and this is not just in Russia or the former USSR.

Mobile combat systems interacted in the sky at varying altitudes, ranging from several hundred meters to tens of kilometers. During the exercises, 31 targets—Smerch, Scud, and cruise class missiles—were launched. All of

them were hit. A 100 percent defensive umbrella was created. This result was not, let us be honest, planned by the designers, industrialists, or military people. Let me emphasize that all the systems involved are serially produced. [video shows aerial view of several mobile missile launchers spread out over terrain; close-ups of launchers preparing for firing; missile being fired vertically; close-up of military officials; missile being fired at fairly shallow trajectory]

So that you may comprehend more fully what this really means, let us recall the war in the Persian Gulf. The air defenses of the countries opposing Iraq let a number of Scud missiles get through to their territories and used three or four missiles to bring down a single Scud. In the present exercises, an efficiency level was attained that is three or four times greater than that of similar U.S. systems. Our (Buktor S-300) missiles have surpassed their American counterparts—Patriot, Hawk, and Roland—in respect of all performance indices. [video shows further missiles being launched; target being hit]

[Begin recording] [Ukhov] Are such exercises useful?

[Russian First Deputy Defense Minister A.A. Kokoshin] Yes, certainly. The results that we have already obtained will, I think, make it possible for us to save billions of rubles.

[Ukhov] The exercises were held in the territory of Kazakhstan. By agreement between the two countries, the Emba test range is used by the forces of both Russia and Kazakhstan. [end recording] [video shows close-up of missile launcher]

Navy Exercise Demonstrates 'Defensive ABM Umbrella'

PM2310152592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Oct 92

[Reports by V. Anuchin and A. Uchinin on carrier aviation exercises, and A. Ukhov on "Defense-92" exercises; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The Army and Navy are beset with acute problems. But even in this situation we continue to astound the world with the strength of our scientific thought invested in defense.

For the first time in the Northern Fleet carrier aviation flights began today on the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Admiral Kuznetsov.

Also for the first time today our defensive ABM umbrella was demonstrated.

[Anuchin over video of cruiser Admiral Kuznetsov] This cruiser is the flagship of the Russian Navy. It is equipped with all types of modern weapons. As for its deck-borne aviation, it consists of modern fighters—Su-25, MiG-29,

and Su-28—and combat helicopters. If you like a graphic comparison, this ship is comparable with a 24-story building in height.

And here, on the expanses of the Barents Sea, an Su-25 fighter is taking off and landing on the ship's runway today. It is piloted by test pilots Sergey Melnikov and Nikolay Georgidze. Not far from us, the flights were being watched by the Norwegian reconnaissance vessel Marjatta. I believe that even the Norwegians admired the skill with which Pilot First Class Timur Abakidze flew the Su-27.

[Begin recording] [Anuchin] Are today's flights a demonstration of strength to the NATO countries, or are they something else?

[O.A. Yerofeyev, commander of the Northern Fleet] The ship is carrying out purely defensive tasks. It is an air-defense ship. This is routine combat training. [end recording] [video captioned "Northern Fleet" shows aircraft carrier at a distance, and closeups, including instruments on deck, aircraft taking off from aircraft carrier, Su-25 and Su-27 in flight]

[A. Ukhov over video of mobile launchers captioned "Oborona-92 Exercises"] What you are about to see has never been seen before by anyone. Integrated exercises using all the most modern ABM defense systems have been held for the first time in a so-called "theater of military operations," and I don't mean just in Russia or the former USSR.

Mobile combat systems interacted in the sky at the most varied altitudes ranging from a few hundred meters to tens of kilometers. During the exercises 31 targets were launched—Smerch, Scud, and cruise class missiles. And all of them were destroyed. A 100-percent defensive umbrella was created—a result, let's be honest, which had not been planned even by the designers, industrialists, and the military. Let me emphasize that all the systems involved were serially produced systems.

To make you appreciate what all this means, let's recall the war in the Persian Gulf. The air defenses of the countries opposing Iraq let a number of Scud missiles through to their territories. It took three to four missiles to bring down one Scud. The efficiency level achieved at today's exercises was three to four times higher than that of similar U.S. systems. Our (?Buk), Thor, and S-300 missiles surpassed their American counterparts—Patriot, Hawk, and Roland missiles—as regards all performance indicators.

[Begin recording] [Ukhov] It is possible to speak of the profitability of such exercises?

[Kokoshin, Russian first deputy minister of defense] Unquestionably. The results that we have already obtained will, I believe, enable us to save many billion rubles. [end recording]

[Ukhov] The exercises were held on the territory of Kazakhstan. By agreement between the two countries,

the Emba test range is being used by both Russian and Kazakh troops. [Video shows aerial view of mobile missile launchers, closeups of launchers preparing for firing, missiles being launched, closeups of military watching exercise, radar screens, targets being hit]

CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE

Lithuanian Defense Ministry Data on Withdrawal of Russian Units

WS1410130092 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0126 GMT 13 Oct 92

[Text] 13 October 1992—According to the data of the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense, in compliance with the Lithuanian-Russian agreements in September 1992 the Russians completely withdrew the very powerful 384th artillery brigade from the northwest Lithuanian district of Plunge and the unit of the 5191st protection base from the Pabrade district in the east of Lithuania. The 96th aviation repair battalion was pulled out from Siauliai at the beginning of October. Soon the Lithuanian military authorities are going to take over the 225th school of junior aviators in the district of Radviliskis, south of Siauliai. In September the Lithuanian authorities took over the Russian military objects of the anti-aircraft missile brigade in the district of Raseiniai, of aviation arsenal service unit in Siauliai, of an anti-aircraft defense unit in Kedainiai and others.

Ten trains consisting of 32 carriages and 394 platform-cars loaded with 557 units of weaponry were taken away at the end of September and the beginning of October.

Latvian, Russian Deputies Discuss Troop Withdrawal

Latvian Concerns Described

WS2010130492 Riga LETA in English 1616 GMT 19 Oct 92

[Text] Riga, October 19 (LETA)—In Riga have met Latvian and Russian parliamentarians who deal with issues on military, army, security and defence. The deputies from Russia took a special interest in the schedule of troops withdrawal, as well as the social aspects of the move. The Latvian part pointed out that Russia has not so far answered any of the numerous suggestions submitted by Latvia and Western countries regarding aid with supplying with accommodations the Russian officers who would leave Latvia and return to their homeland. The Latvian part stressed that it was necessary to state the date of troops withdrawal before the status of the Russian troops in Latvia can be formulated. The Russian parliamentarians agreed that the recent complaints about the discrimination of the military officers allegedly taking place in Latvia, has no leg to stand on. The Russian parliamentarians promised to inform on it the parliament of Russia and the joint meeting of the Russian Supreme Council and Security

Council. According to the information service of Latvian Government, the negotiations of Latvian and Russian delegation on relationship between the two countries, which have been planned for October 21, were put off till October 23-24. This round of talks is expected to take place in Moscow.

The State Minister Janis Dinevich met with the Russian charge d'affaires in Latvia, Aleksandr Rannykh, complying with the latter's request. During the meeting they discussed the political and economic relations between the two countries now and in prospects, as well as the issues concerning the current round of negotiations on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia.

Russian Envoy Comments on New Round

OW2210113092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1053 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The talks between Russia and Latvia on Thursday [22 October] and Friday [23 October] in Nakhabino near Moscow should make it clear whether the Latvian side intends to conduct earnest bilateral negotiations on the withdrawal of troops or it intends to resort to the old tactics of inventing solutions at the negotiating table. The statement was made by the head of the Russian delegation to the talks with Latvia ambassador Sergey Zotov.

The diplomat said that after the radical concessions made by the Russian side with regard to the time of the withdrawal it can count on Latvia meeting it halfway on the package of proposals made at the meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia and Baltic countries in Moscow. According to Mr. Zotov, the proposals offer a realistic framework for an agreement on the pullout of troops within a comparatively limited time.

Sergey Zotov said that the Russian side still attaches primary attention to the normalization of the legal status of ethnic Russians in Latvia, including retired officers living in its territory. The delegation will insist that the housing and property rights of these persons not be affected and that the agreement on the withdrawal of troops confirm these rights.

The ambassador said that with good will even this meeting could work out and initial five separate agreements related to the withdrawal and regulating such matters as the crossing of the border by the withdrawing troops, railway transportation, the use of territorial waters, ports and port facilities, customs regulations and the pensions of retired Soviet Army officers. The Russian delegation is also waiting for a reply to the draft frontier agreement which it submitted during the talks in Jurmala.

Calls Talks 'Satisfactory'

*OW2410194092 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1604 GMT 24 Oct 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian and Latvian state delegations have today finished a round of negotiations in Moscow on the withdrawal of Russian forces from Latvia.

In an interview with INTERFAX [as received], the leader of the Russian delegation, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Sergey Zotov, described the results of the negotiations as satisfactory. A whole range of problems related to the forces' withdrawal were solved, he said, pointing out an agreement stipulating that a missile attack early warning station in Skrunde will continue functioning after the Russian forces leave. Nor did Latvia object to the arrival of Russian personnel to do auxiliary work the forces' withdrawal will involve. Agreements were also reached on the free movement of Russian troops for logistic purposes, on the use of airspace over Latvia, border protection, use of communications and transport, ownership and use of movable property, legal assistance, environment protection, and the powers of the joint expert commission.

According to Zotov, work will be continued on such vital issues as the final withdrawal of all Russian forces, ownership of the forces' real estate, and social security both for members of the forces to be withdrawn and for retired Russian servicemen living in Latvia. Zotov said the Russian forces' withdrawal will be completed in 1994 if Latvia accepts the package approach proposed by the Russian delegation on August 6, 1992. Latvia, however, still insists that all the forces leave before 1993.

Zotov stressed the special importance Russian President Boris Yeltsin attaches to the normalization of the legal status of Latvia's Russian-speaking population, in particular to retired servicemen's property and accommodation rights.

The Russian delegation protested against the provisional Latvian regulations on the movement of Russian forces through Latvian territory as contradicting earlier agreements prohibiting unilateral measures taken without the other side's consent.

The Russian delegation informed the Latvian one that, for this reason, the command of the Northwestern Armed Forces Group and that of the Baltic Fleet will not abide by the regulations.

Zotov expressed the hope that the progress at the Russian-Latvian negotiations had been achieved not only due to the Russian leadership's firm and consistent line aimed at having normal human rights standards provided in Latvia but also to Latvia's realization of the necessity to look for a solution to the forces' withdrawal problem within the framework of bilateral negotiations rather than by having the problem internationalized.

The next round has tentatively been scheduled for mid-November 1992.

The Latvian delegation at the present round was led by State Minister Janis Dinevics.

Russian Parliamentarian Lays Down Conditions for Withdrawal

*PM2610165192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 24 Oct 92 First Edition p 7*

[Interview with Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions, by Valentin Shapka of the Supreme Soviet Press Center; date not given: "Sergey Stepashin: We Will Not Abandon People to the Whim of Fate"]

[Text] Riga-Moscow—A group of Russian parliamentarians has visited the Northwest Group of Forces. Valentin Shapka, a staffer from the Supreme Soviet Press Center, spoke to the group's leader Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions.

[Shapka] Sergey Vadimovich, you have heard many uncomplimentary things said about politicians both in the Baltics and in Russia. At the same time you may have witnessed the diminishing hopes—but still hopes, nonetheless—of Russia not abandoning its people.

[Stepashin] It is important to back up something that we know with documents and meetings with people. Believe you me, it is very hard in this emotional atmosphere, seeing people's pain and sorrow, to tell them that the Russian Government and Supreme Soviet are not leaving them here as hostages and abandoning them. I do not know how far they have sensed this, at least the tone of the conversations has changed from mistrust to timid signs of hope.

Certainly, our information has been borne out. But it was important to know the opinion of the command, the veterans, women, and the Latvian leadership. We met with leaders of the parliamentary Committee for Defense and Internal Affairs and representatives of the Supreme Council chairman.

Dialogue with the leadership of the Latvian Supreme Council is important. In this specific situation talks between the Latvian and Russian state delegations, insofar as the troop withdrawal is concerned, have effectively become deadlocked. For subjective and objective reasons. I do not want to say that we are emerging from this deadlock following our visit.

The first thing that we must lay down—and we must set the delegation conducting these talks the clear task—is an interconnected decision on the dates for the troop withdrawal and the definition of their legal position in the Baltics.

What must be resolved immediately? Something that we have lost in Hungary and Czechoslovakia and that we

are losing in Poland and Germany—the property question. I am amazed that to date it has not been decided, either at government or negotiating level, which installations, buildings, and premises are Russian property and which are Latvian property or are leased by us. I have been presented with a lengthy report from which the following simple conclusion can be drawn: If the district leadership was given an opportunity (undoubtedly, via the appropriate channels) to sell property, the housing question for officers and warrant officers—at least those in Latvia—would be settled within the year. This is not being done!

I think that the Security Council, as the organ formulating collective decisions, should help Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to more clearly define and take up a position on questions pertaining to the rights of officers and citizens living in Latvia. Undoubtedly, without interfering in the Baltic state's internal affairs. The question of giving officers a chance to sell their housing has been resolved with Lithuania, in one way or another. In Latvia all apartments have been declared official property. I think that the question may be put in that way.

The position of the nonindigenous population in Latvia is very difficult. That is why, before an agreement on relations and on friendship and economic cooperation is signed between Latvia and Russia, guarantees must be unequivocally secured as to observance of the rights of Latvia's Russian population. There are various levers for this, including economic levers. That is precisely how any civilized state operates. However, I am convinced that these questions must not under any circumstances be directly linked with the troop withdrawal and the observance of human rights in the Baltics.

[Shapka] I would like to recall something that was said during the trip: "The state talks between Russia and Latvia have become deadlocked." Russians living here are talking about apartheid and saying that the Russian Government has forgotten them. The civilian population, fearing for its future following the troop withdrawal, is calling the officers traitors. The situation looks kind of hopeless. But people are after all still here, and the troop withdrawal is not a transitory process, it will resume, and will continue for some time; citizens need to believe in and rely on something. Can this deadlock be overcome?

[Stepashin] I think it can. Previously it seemed that the talks with Lithuania had become deadlocked too.

You must learn to carry out your own promises. You have to learn from what happened in Latvia: People were simply misled. First they were given one date for the troop withdrawal, by the defense minister among others, then they were given another date, and then a third date. At first it was a question of the troops not being withdrawn until the conditions had been created for that to happen. Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev was right in

saying that people are not mushrooms to be cast onto the street... The first thing to be done is not to deceive people.

As for the deadlock, I think that it can be surmounted. When withdrawing the troops we must comply with one clear, rigid outline linked with the troop withdrawal from Germany. Until civilized conditions are created for the withdrawal on the one hand, and for providing the troops with amenities on the other hand, there can be simply no talk of any specific dates.

We must also acknowledge another problem: It is economically very costly to maintain our troops, particularly in a situation where, for instance, the Latvian ruble is in circulation in Latvia, yet we are paying our people salaries in Russian money.

[Shapka] People are saying that the question of the troop withdrawal dates is a double-edged sword. Every day that the troops are here and every day of their accelerated withdrawal costs Russia and the taxpayer the same.

[Stepashin] That is quite right. That is why the problem must be resolved as follows: There must be a civilized withdrawal to well-equipped places and provision of a guaranteed right to a fairly normal existence. I think that we are resolving the matter—the Latvian side is prepared to meet us halfway and allow teams of servicemen to come here to load up property and so on. Incidentally, this is the first new thing that has been said—there was no mention of this before.

The second question is more complex and I think that we should be more active in involving the United Nations and the North Atlantic Assembly. Whereas Latvia is a UN member country and backs the Helsinki agreements, the Charter on Human Rights, and so on, we still have to resolve the question of observing citizens' rights. I realize that a sovereign state has its own laws. But the qualification for citizenship that has been prescribed in Latvia (I am not referring to the linguistic qualification, the tough restrictions employed against former servicemen, and so on) provokes many questions as to how far current laws, which at times smack of political pragmatism, accord with the declaration on democracy and a democratic state. Therefore I am still hoping for the world community to exert some influence.

Here is a third point. Let us be frank: Like all the former USSR republics, Latvia today has extremely close links with Russia. If we just start conducting dialogue normally and work in a civilized manner, on the basis of our close economic ties, believe you me, the political situation will change too.

Our committee's stance is clear: The question of the sovereignty of Latvia and the other Baltic republics has already been resolved. They are independent states whose rights we must consider and respect. But, on the other hand, you must bear in mind that hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens live here and we bear responsibility for them. A very fine line must be found in

diplomatic, economic, and military matters. This is up to the country's politicians and leadership, the Foreign Ministry, and, lastly, the Supreme Soviet. A "Red Guard attack on capital" from right or left, with white or black banners has never been successful. And our people must know that we will never abandon them to the will of fate under any circumstances.

Russia Suspends Troop Withdrawal From Baltics

Defense Ministry Seeks 'Appropriate Conditions'
OW2010115592 Moscow BALTFAK in English
1059 GMT 20 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Defence Ministry has announced the suspension of the withdrawal from Baltia of formations of the North-Western army group and the Baltic Fleet for which appropriate conditions have not been created in new points of location.

The statement issued on Tuesday [20 October] says that 40,000 officers with families are to be pulled out from the three countries. According to schedule, this year 24,347 persons, 10,382 of them officers, are to leave the region. In the military districts where they will be stationed the number of officers without permanent housing varies from 2,200 to 18,200.

The stance of the Defence Ministry is that the withdrawal from Baltia should be conducted to prepared areas, primarily to places with appropriate housing conditions and infrastructure. The withdrawal of units for which appropriate conditions have not been created is being temporarily suspended till the solution of all the problems, the statement says.

On October 9 the Council of Officers' Assemblies of the Baltic area at a session in Riga decided to appeal to the Russian Constitutional Court to check to legality of the decision of the Defence Ministry to speed up the withdrawal from the Baltic states. The decision was actively supported by several officers' assemblies. Some days later the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev postponed the withdrawal of the 15th Air Army from Latvia till May 1993.

Text of Collegium Statement

PM2110114392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 21 Oct 92 p 1

[“Russian Federation Defense Ministry Statement” under the general heading: “Troops Must Be Withdrawn from Baltic Region Only to Places With Amenities”]

[Text] On 19 October the Russian Federation Defense Ministry collegium discussed problems connected with the presence of Russian troops and their withdrawal from the Baltic states, once again elaborating positions and defining principled approaches to the resolution of these problems.

As is known, a difficult situation is taking shape here. Some 40,000 servicemen with families have to be withdrawn from the Baltic region. In 1992 alone, according to the plan, 24,347 people are to leave this region, including 10,382 officers and ensigns. In the military districts to whose territory the troops are being withdrawn the numbers of their own people without apartments ranges between 2,200 and 18,200. Meanwhile, what is needed for a normal life is not only housing, but also social infrastructure facilities.

The situation is particularly exacerbated by the fact that the active withdrawal of troops from Lithuania falls in the winter period.

All this cannot fail to affect the sentiments of the Russian servicemen who are to leave or already are leaving the Baltic region. Their concern is perfectly explicable and understandable in human terms. There are certain forces, however, that are interested in "fanning" passions, sowing uncertainty among officers, and undermining confidence in the leadership of the Russian Armed Forces. Far-reaching political ends are being pursued here—to involve the army again in resolving political disputes.

The official authorities in the Baltic states are implementing a "tough" political course of driving the Russian troops from their territories. A number of legislative acts have been adopted that virtually have paralyzed all combat training and associated vital activities.

Young reinforcements have been prohibited from reaching Russian garrisons, which will result in the virtual cessation of the functioning of military units already by the end of 1993....

The Defense Ministry collegium confirms the decision to suspend the withdrawal of those units and combined units of the Northwestern Group of Forces and the Baltic Fleet for which the appropriate amenities have not been created in the places to which they are being withdrawn.

The Russian Federation Defense Ministry declares that its position consists in withdrawing troops from the Baltic countries only to prepared stocks and, primarily, given the existence of housing and the social infrastructure. The withdrawal of troops for which appropriate conditions have not been created is being suspended temporarily, until all questions connected with the provision of amenities for them in the new places of stationing have been resolved.

Grachev Comments

OW2010142892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1410 GMT 20 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The terms of the Russian forces withdrawal from the Baltic states will not be reconsidered and they will leave the Baltic states before the end of 1994 as it was supposed earlier. In the morning on October 20 the press

service of the Russian Defense Ministry distributed a statement on suspension of forces withdrawal from the Baltic states and made explanations that the terms of withdrawal of separate units for which sites of stationing had not been prepared yet would be changed in the framework of general agreements. "We shall not station forces in a bare field," Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, declared.

According to Grachev, the Defense Ministry deliberately attracts attention of the public to the problems of living construction for the troops in order to take off the social tension which has reached its extreme in the Russian Army.

Announcement Surprises Lithuanian Envoy
*OW2010174192 Moscow BALTFAX in English
 1711 GMT 20 Oct 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Lithuanian Republic in Moscow, Egidius Bickauskas, said he was surprised by the decision of the Russian collegium of the defense ministry circulated October 20 to suspend the troops withdrawal from the Baltic countries.

In an interview for the BALTFAX correspondent, he expressed concern with the fact that it was not the first time when Russia "unilaterally stated that it was going to break its own commitments", confirmed by the signatures of supreme government officials.

Such action, in the opinion of the Lithuanian diplomat, invoke doubts in regards to the sincerity of the statements made by some of Russia's high-standing officials who claim both in Russia and at various international forums that they are striving to address "such an important for Lithuania issue as the Russian troops withdrawal from its territory" on the basis of equality.

At the same time, Mr. Bickauskas expressed hope that Russia will manage to "overcome the difficulties it has confronted, and the coordinated timetable for the Russian troops withdrawal will be observed".

As we reported earlier, in September, the Lithuanian and Russian representatives signed a number of documents providing for the completion of the Russian troops withdrawal from the republic by August 31, 1993. The main agreement of this package of documents has not been signed by the heads of states, however, because in the opinion of the Russian president, the signing of this document was slated for October.

Landsbergis Says Withdrawal To Continue
*OW2110165292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
 1631 GMT 21 Oct 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking Wednesday [21 October] before journalists in Vilnius, head of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis said he saw "no reasons to believe that the pullout of the Russian troops from the republic could be suspended or even procrastinated". He said he had no information indicating that the Russian troops would be withdrawn "to the plain field".

As regards the statement circulated by the collegium of the Russian defense ministry October 20 announcing suspension of the troops withdrawal from the Baltics, Mr. Landsbergis reasons that it was made to "comfort influential groups of officers and indicate the ministry's concern for their social needs".

Mr. Landsbergis also said that the republic's prime minister Aleksandras Abisala had received Russian defense minister Pavel Grachev's assurances that the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania will be continued.

Lithuanian Deputy Chairman Comments
*LD2210092992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
 in Russian 1300 GMT 21 Oct 92*

[Text] Our interlocutor is Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council. You are the head of the negotiating team with Russia, and we therefore ask you about a report by almost all the mass information media about the Russian defense leadership suspending the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic region if there are no prepared places for the officers to live, to accomodate equipment, etc. What can you say about this report?

[Stankevicius] Of course such reports provoke concern, but I am convinced that this does not constitute an intention to violate agreements signed on behalf of the Russian Federation with the Republic of Lithuania, which have been registered at the United Nations and which are being fulfilled up to this day. I am convinced that they will be fulfilled, and such statements will probably mean that the Russian Government is taking measures to prepare places where these units are being withdrawn. We have no doubt that the agreements will be fulfilled.

Russian Spokesman Explains Suspension
*LD2310083192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
 in English 1910 GMT 22 Oct 92*

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has decided to suspend the withdrawal of formations of the North-Western Army and the Baltic Fleet from Baltic countries. Here is the spokesman for the General Staff, (?Valeriy Churin):

[Begin (?Churin) recording, in Russian fading to English translation] The withdrawal from the Baltic countries has not been stopped altogether. The units and formations that are guaranteed the proper conditions in their new locations are pulling out strictly according to schedule. The leadership of the Defense Ministry held a

special session last Monday to fundamentally discuss all aspects of the stay and withdrawal of Russian troops, to finalize approaches to existing problems.

It must be said that the atmosphere surrounding Russian troops in Baltic countries is complicated. Local radical political movements are fanning intolerance to [as heard] residents of garrisons. The families of officers, women, and children, suffer most as a result. A total of 40,000 officers with families are to be pulled out from the Baltic countries. According to schedule, 24,347 persons, half of them officers and petty officers, are to come to Russia by the end of the year. The main difficulty is that in their new stationing points the officers will be added to the existing long waiting lists for housing which will naturally result in a wave of dissatisfaction.

One gets the impression that certain circles in Baltic countries have assumed a policy of undermining confidence in the leadership of the Russian Armed Forces among officers, of involving the Army in political disputes, of provoking a social outburst in the Army.

To avoid the aggravation of the situation, to prevent it from getting out of control, the ministry decided to suspend the withdrawal of units for which housing and the social infrastructure have not been prepared in new localities. This confirms the declarations of President Yeltsin and Defense Minister Grachev that troops will not be withdrawn to be left in the open in Russia. The withdrawal of troops can and must be conducted only on the basis of mutually acceptable agreement, taking into account the interests of those who are leaving the Baltic states (?forever) together with Russian units. [end recording]

Belarusian Parliament Ratifies CFE Treaty

Chairman: Republic Must Meet USSR Obligations

*LD1510040592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0000 GMT 15 Oct 92*

[Text] Belarusian Parliament Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich believes one of the main issues facing the upcoming Supreme Soviet session is the fulfillment of obligations of the former USSR. He believes it is necessary to show that Belarus intends to respect international principles and will, therefore, fulfill obligations of the former USSR by ratifying the conventional weapons reduction agreements. This statement was made by the Belarus parliamentary speaker on 13 October at a meeting in Orsha.

Undecided on CIS Security Treaty

*LD2110181692 Moscow IAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1634 GMT 21 Oct 92*

[By BELINFORM correspondents for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 21 Oct—The international treaty on conventional weapons in Europe was ratified today at a closed sitting of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus.

This document, signed in 1990 by the leadership of the former USSR, was not ratified within the specified period because of the collapse of the Union. Therefore, the conference of CIS heads of state in Tashkent in May this year made the decision that the treaty should be ratified separately by each republic.

As BELINFORM correspondents have learned, the question of Belarus joining the collective security treaty signed in Tashkent by six republics was also raised at the closed sitting. Let us recall that Stanislav Shushkevich did not sign this document in the Uzbek capital, saying that he was taking that decision because he needed to obtain parliamentary approval.

The deputies did not reach a common view and decided to return to the issue when they discuss the collection of military problems which has been put on the agenda of the parliamentary session.

Debate on CFE Treaty Described

*MK2310132592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 23 Oct 92 p 3*

[Report by Igor Sinyakevich: "Parliament Has Ratified the CFE Treaty. Closed Debates Went on for Three and One-Half Hours"]

[Text] The CFE Treaty was discussed behind closed doors at the 21 October morning session of the Belarusian parliament. Let me remind readers that this agreement was due to be ratified by the start of the top-level meeting of leaders of European states within the CSCE framework held in Helsinki at the beginning of July. Belarus, however, was unable to ratify the treaty by this time: The postcommunist majority in the Supreme Soviet, which was unwilling to make a decision about a referendum on early parliamentary elections, sought to delay the start of the latest session in every possible way. Consequently the deputies' vacation dragged on for six months. In order to find a way out of this situation, a protocol was signed in Helsinki that temporarily brought the CFE Treaty into force for a 120-day period. If just one of the signatory-countries fails to submit the instrument of ratification to the depositor country by 3 November, the treaty becomes void.

Of course, the situation in Belarus, which is bursting with weapons, caused concern in the world community. Major General Viktor Vakar, chief of the Republic of Belarus National Agency for Verification and Inspections, informed journalists that the entire quota for international monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the treaty in the country had been exhausted over these 120 days. "We received 18 inspection teams from eight states; no CSCE country has been subjected to such intensive monitoring," V. Vakar

stated. And Gennadiy Kozlov, first deputy chief of the Administration for Questions of Citizens' Rights, Social Security, and Defense Work under the Council of Ministers, said in an interview with the newspaper ZVYAZDA that "the U.S. secretary of state sent us a message at the time demanding categorically that we ratify the treaty immediately, threatening economic sanctions if we did not. At the time we viewed this as interference in our internal affairs." G. Kozlov also stated that ratification of the CFE Treaty is a key problem and it involves pitfalls. Bearing in mind that G. Kozlov also heads the majority "Belarus" faction in the Supreme Soviet, it was too much to hope for a purely automatic ratification of the treaty by parliament.

However, the lengthy closed debate that went on for three and a half hours did not expose unequivocal opponents of ratification, although quite a few deputies voiced their doubts about the expediency of this step. Their argument was that scrapping such an enormous quantity of combat hardware is economically disadvantageous. There was concern at the lack of a Belarusian military doctrine. Nevertheless, fears of an international furor and plain common sense won the day. A total of 291 deputies voted for ratification of the CFE Treaty, and three abstained.

The agreement thus comes fully into force, which means that in 40 months' time the republic's army should be left with no more than 1,800 tanks, 2,600 armored vehicles, 1,615 artillery systems, 260 combat aircraft, and 80 strike helicopters. Thus from the rich inheritance of the Belarusian Military District it will be necessary to cut more than 1,500 tanks, 2,000 armored vehicles, and 130 aircraft. The number of servicemen by the end of this period should not exceed 100,000 men (right now the total is 160,000). According to Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy, the main thing to be cut back will be old models of obsolete hardware whose engines have reached the end of their life. According to him, melting down the tanks will yield more than 50,000 tonnes of alloy steel.

Regarding possible weapons sales, dissent could be heard in statements by officials. The aforementioned Gennadiy Kozlov stated that the ratification of the CFE Treaty does not deprive Belarus of its right to sell weapons. The defense minister, invited to comment on this statement, believes that the republic has the right to sell military hardware from the quotas defined by the treaty, but not the weapons that are being cut back. However, Viktor Vakal, head of the International Agency for Verification and Inspections, stated that during the four-month validity of the temporary CFE Treaty, no attempts to sell weapons abroad were recorded.

Belarusian Defense Minister Discusses Troop Reduction Goals

*PM2210111392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 21 Oct 92 p 3*

[Valeriy Kovalev report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Belarusian Defense Minister Met With Military Deputies. Army Reduction Discussed"]

[Text] Minsk, 20 Oct—By 1 January 1995 troops on Belarusian territory will have been reduced from 180,000 to 75,000 men. This will be the exact strength of the republic's armed forces on completion of the reform (previously a different figure was cited—90,000-95,000). Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy stated this at a meeting with servicemen who are people's deputies on local soviets for the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Belarus. By this time the number of units in the Belarusian Army will have been reduced by three-fourths, and just over 300 of them will be left.

Such a large-scale reduction, the head of the military department pointed out, will affect the destinies of many people. Approximately 18,000 officers and ensigns are to be discharged into the reserve in the space of just over two years. In this connection the tasks of providing them with housing, retraining them, finding them jobs, and providing pensions arise. Pavel Kozlovskiy briefed the gathering on the measures which the republic's government and Defense Ministry plan to take in respect of this problem.

Burbulis Endorses Withdrawal Schedule From Germany

*PM2610171592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 21 Oct 92 p 3*

[Sergey Pashayev report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Troop Withdrawal from Germany Must Not Be Accelerated, State Secretary to Russian President Believes"]

[Text] WGF [Western Group of Forces], 20 Oct—Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary to the president of the Russian Federation, ended his visit to the FRG to attend the funeral of Willy Brandt with a meeting with WGF servicemen. After visiting last Sunday the Russian motorized rifle brigade stationed in Berlin, he then headed for the WGF headquarters in Wuensdorf, where he addressed the group's leader personnel.

Several points from Burbulis' speech merit special attention. Above all, he rated highly the organizational standard and order that are maintained in the WGF. In Burbulis' view, however, the group's command needs political support.

After touching on the problem of the shortage of soldiers and sergeants in subunits, which could very soon substantially complicate the situation with regard to relocating from Germany the considerable quantity of hardware which is still there and the tremendous material stocks, the state secretary unequivocally supported the proposal by Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, WGF commander in chief, to conduct experimental recruitment on a contract basis among the soldiers being discharged in the fall (this is more than 60 percent of the group's entire personnel).

Commenting on the views which have appeared recently on the need to accelerate the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany, Burbulis remarked that he sees no point

in this. The schedule has been agreed upon, he declared, and it suits both sides. In addition, there are certain states which are very insistently confront us with an analogous problem.

And another point. There is a truly unique exhibit in the Museum of WGF History in Wuensdorf—the diorama “The Storming of the Reichstag.” Its future fate is of concern to both the group’s command and its community. After visiting the museum, the state secretary promised to do everything possible to bring the diorama back to the motherland before the WGF withdrawal is completed.

SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES

Northern Fleet Removes Tactical Nuclear Arms From Ships

*LD2010131292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1215 GMT 20 Oct 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[Text] Murmansk October 20 TASS—The Russian Northern Fleet has removed tactical nuclear weapons from its ships in keeping with an international agreement on reduction of nuclear weapons, Admiral Oleg Yerofeyev, commander of the Northern Fleet, said at a news conference on Tuesday [20 October].

Simultaneously, the number of warships has been reduced, the admiral said. “However, the move has not affected the fleet’s capabilities,” he noted. The admiral stressed that the fleet had strengthened its might due to increased skills of sailors to handle new kinds of weapons and military hardware.

“Servicemen of the Northern Fleet will do their best to protect Russian sea borders,” the admiral said.

NUCLEAR TESTING

Defense Ministry Invites Newsmen To Novaya Zemlya

To Assess Environmental Situation
*LD1410223192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1440 GMT 14 Oct 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—The Russian Defence Ministry on Wednesday [14 October] offered an opportunity to a large group of Russian and foreign journalists to visit a nuclear range situated on the Arctic archipelago of Novaya Zemlya that had been a no-entry zone until recently. Journalists will see test platforms of the nuclear range and will familiarise themselves with the ecological situation in the archipelago.

As many as 132 nuclear explosions were staged at test grounds of the range on Novaya Zemlya (87 atmospheric explosions, three underwater and 42 underground explosions) from 1957 to 1990. This is a heavier load than that of any range in the world. The most intensive tests were conducted in 1958—26 tests. There were 24 tests in 1961 and 34 in 1962. The most powerful explosion with a yield of 58 megatonnes was staged on the archipelago on October 30, 1961.

Since the beginning of military construction in mid-50, institutions of civilian power were eliminated on Novaya Zemlya and local people moved to the mainland. Since that time the power there fully belongs to the military. But in addition to the military, the archipelago is inhabited by researchers and their families.

By decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin nuclear tests on Novaya Zemlya were suspended till October 26, 1992. However, Russian defence minister, General Pavel Grachev said that if tests are resumed, this will be not earlier than the middle of next year. At the same time, during a conversation with ITAR-TASS, the minister said that Russia’s unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing cannot be indefinite. Each kind of arms needs to be constantly perfected.

In September, General Grachev visited the Arctic archipelago and familiarised himself with a state and possibilities of the main technical structures of the nuclear range and problems of its personnel. “The range meets technological requirement”, he said. “I decided that the military contingent on Novaya Zemlya be reduced”.

According to the expert assessment, the radiation situation in the area of the range is quite safe.

Journalists Arrive

*LD1710201792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1900 GMT 17 Oct 92*

[Text] A large group of journalists from Russia, the United States, Sweden, France, Spain, Japan, and other countries, has inspected Russia’s nuclear testing site on the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. The inspectors measured the level of radiation and found that it was much below the level of radioactive pollution in such an industrial city as Moscow. Speaking about the test facility’s future, one of the senior managers (Viktor Yargin) has told newsmen that work to develop alternative nuclear energy sources could be carried out on the archipelago.

Do Not See ‘Actual Test Ranges’

*OW1710202592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1713 GMT 17 Oct 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of Russian and foreign journalists has completed its two-day visit to the archipelago of Novaya Zemlya where Russia tests its nuclear devices. The

journalists have seen many facilities, including offices, housing projects, and children's, study and medical centers. They've seen the hard conditions of life and work at the testing ground. They've made two attempts to reach, by helicopter, the actual testing ranges but both times they returned, upon their own request, without reaching the objective.

Greenpeace Ship Seized Near Novaya Zemlya

Foreign Ministry Comments

OW1610162892 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1539 GMT 16 Oct 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, D. Voskoboinikov, I. Porshnev, and others; from "Diplomatic Panoram"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry has issued a commentary in connection with the situation concerning the ship "Solo" which belongs to the international environmentalist organization Greenpeace. It's common knowledge that several days ago the vessel was detained when trying to enter Russia's territorial waters outside the island of Novaya Zemlya. The vessel violated Russia's border deliberately, the director of the ministry's Department for Information and the Press Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said at a briefing.

According to him, it's out of the question that the ship was engaged in a peaceful mission, since water and soil samples have been discovered on its board. This means that members of its crew were conducting research in Russia's territorial waters, which is a violation of international legislation, since requests for the permission to carry out such work should be filed in advance. Russia's Foreign Ministry received no such requests.

Correspondents Not Allowed on Board

OW1910195192 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1931 GMT 19 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Foreign correspondents will not be allowed on the Greenpeace ship Solo until all circumstances of its trip to the archipelago Novaya Zemlya are clarified. Having made that decision, on October 18 the leadership of the Russian border troops invited only representatives from ITAR-TASS, Russian television, and the army newspaper, "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" on board the ship, which has been detained and towed to Murmansk. The border forces press service refused to comment on their reasons for this decision.

Questioning of Solo's crew members will begin October 20, although an official criminal case has not yet been raised against them. Representatives of the international environmental protection organization, who were attempting to take radiation probes near the Novaya

Zemlya archipelago, where Russia's main nuclear testing ground is located and where nuclear waste is buried, are accused of violating Russia's territorial waters and the rules of research activities.

Scientists Question Need for Nuclear Parity, Testing

PM2110104192 Moscow *KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA* in Russian 20 Oct 92 p 3

[Feature compiled by Candidate of Technical Sciences V. Yakimets, Nevada-Semipalatinsk Antinuclear Movement, A. Kaverznev, Ye. Ovcharenko, and V. Zozulya: "Testing Grounds Must Be Silent until July. But After That?"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

Do New Nuclear Tests Await the Russian Military?

On 14 October 1992 the mass media published a report on Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev's meeting with Soviet and foreign journalists held the day before.

"As you know, the Russian unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests at the Novaya Zemlya testing ground expires this year. But so far there is no decision on the resumption of tests. The defense minister intends to suggest that nuclear explosions be resumed. It is true that they will not now be carried out in the same volume as before, but on a far smaller scale. We were prompted to make this decision by the fact that apart from France no other leading nuclear power has associated itself with the moratorium on nuclear explosions. But if the United States joins the moratorium, Russia will extend its 'nuclear silence.'"

Without commenting on this fragment for the time being, we shall cite the report on the same meeting filed by the *WASHINGTON POST* correspondent:

"The defense minister met with a group of Russian and foreign journalists in his office and stated that the decision as to whether tests will be resumed next year will depend on Washington. 'If tests are resumed it will not be earlier than the middle of 1993,' Grachev said."

And so, two reports on one and the same meeting. But how dissimilar they are.

The first text doubly misinforms the reader. First it reports that the Russian defense minister intends to suggest the resumption of explosions but does not indicate from when. And that is very important, since at the meeting P. Grachev did give a date, and it is quoted in *THE WASHINGTON POST*: the middle of 1993.

The second distortion is that it is stated that apart from France no other leading nuclear powers subscribed to the Russian moratorium on nuclear explosions. That is misinformation, since back on 2 October U.S. President

G. Bush signed a bill, part of which was the announcement of a nine-month U.S. moratorium on nuclear tests. [passage omitted]

Well, What Else Can Atomic Energy Minister Say?

Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov does not rule out the continuation of nuclear tests on Novaya Zemlya. That was the conclusion drawn yesterday by journalists from Germany's DPA news agency, citing his interview, which contained the following statement:

"If the Americans were to extend their moratorium to the second half of 1993 too, we could renounce tests for even longer. The United States has already said that after the moratorium expires it needs to detonate another 15-16 explosions before completely ending tests. That is a very big deal. Russia could lag hopelessly behind."

Do We Need Parity?

In connection with recent initiatives for a drastic reduction of nuclear arsenals, the question arises: Does Russia need to insist on qualitative parity in terms of the number of nuclear test explosions?

That is very doubtful. Many scientists, including Ted Taylor and Andrey Sakharov, asserted that conducting tests to test safety is not necessary. And with a reduction in the number of remaining warheads it is doubly doubtful.

Is it not better to set about preparing a coordinated program of actions by the Ministry of Atomic Energy, public organizations, and independent experts to cleanse polluted territories and develop new technologies for dealing with radioactive waste and to review the existing system of international treaties and organizations? After all, we are advancing toward a fundamentally new system of international security when the nuclear deterrent strategy will die away and with it the nuclear threat will disappear.

Yeltsin Decree Extends Test Moratorium to Jul 93

Text of Decree

*PM2110113192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Oct 92 First Edition p 1*

[Decree No. 1267 of the Russian Federation President "On a Moratorium on Nuclear Tests" issued by President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on 19 October]

[Text] Proceeding from the Russian Federation's desire for a complete ban on nuclear tests by all states, and in the light of the suspension of nuclear tests by France and the United States, which creates favorable conditions for meeting the challenge of their full prohibition, I resolve:

1. To extend until 1 July 1993 the period of validity of the moratorium on nuclear tests by the Russian Federation declared by the 26 October 1991 Directive No.

67-rp of the Russian Federation President "On Halting Nuclear Weapons' Tests on the Novaya Zemlya Proving Ground."

2. To submit proposals on the expediency of further extending the moratorium and on holding relevant talks to the Russian Federation Government by 1 July 1993.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Issued in] Moscow, The Kremlin, 19 October 1992, No. 1267

Yeltsin Address to People, Parliament

*PM1910180192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 20 Oct 92 First Edition p 1*

[“Address to the Russian People and Supreme Soviet”—
ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[Text] Esteemed citizens of the Russian Federation,

Esteemed People's Deputies,

In connection with numerous appeals from Russian citizens, a number of international and national organizations, and individuals in various countries, and given that my announcement last October of a moratorium on Russian nuclear tests was followed by decisions to halt such tests from France and recently the United States, too, I have signed a decree extending our moratorium to 1 July 1993. In the event of the other nuclear powers following the example set by Russia, France, and the United States, a real opportunity will open up for realizing mankind's longstanding dream of a total ban for all time on nuclear tests, which have already done such considerable damage to our environment.

A great role in creating a favorable political climate for the resolution of this important issue has been played by Russian people's deputies, whose statement adopted at the Sixth Congress was not only heeded but is being implemented.

I call on the leaders of Britain and China to respond positively to the ending of nuclear tests by three nuclear powers and to declare moratoriums on their own tests as soon as possible.

It is the duty of all governments to step up efforts to ensure the speediest conclusion of an international treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear testing. As for Russia, I reaffirm our unwavering readiness to get around the negotiating table with a view to elaborating such an international treaty as quickly as possible.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments

*LD2010142792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1324 GMT 20 Oct 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Stasolskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 20 TASS—"There are all opportunities for an early start, holding and completion of negotiations to draft an international treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear tests," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov said here on Tuesday [20 October].

Speaking at a news conference, he noted that Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Monday extending the nuclear test moratorium in Russia till July 1, 1993.

Berdennikov added that France and the United States joined the Russian moratorium which is in force since October 1991.

"The Russian president," the deputy minister said, "sent messages to the British and Chinese leaders, calling on them to respond positively to the discontinuation of tests by the three nuclear powers and to announce a moratorium on their own tests as soon as possible."

As for the drafting and signing of a treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear tests, this can be done at the disarmament conference which has at least two drafts of an appropriate document to debate, the diplomat continued.

"The sooner talks begin, the better. We hope that our moratorium will be a good impetus to begin and conduct such negotiations," Berdennikov concluded.

Ministry Preparing To Resume Tests if U.S. Does

*LD1910225492 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Oct 92*

[Report by correspondent Ye. Revelskaya; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov told "Vesti" today that hearings will be held in parliament before the end of the year on the state of nuclear tests in the country to establish the minimum number necessary.

The last nuclear explosion on Novaya Zemlya was conducted by Russia on 24 October 1990. Since then, the United States has conducted 20 nuclear explosions, France 10, and China four.

The Atomic Energy Ministry is preparing two or three nuclear tests for the second half of 1993, in case the United States resumes its tests after July 1993.

Envoy Explains Moratorium to UN Committee

*LD2110110292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 2330 20 Oct 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] UN, 20 Oct—The attention of those taking part in the discussions in the special political committee of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly has been drawn to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree on extending the moratorium on nuclear tests.

Russia has announced its readiness to proceed decisively by making substantial restrictions on nuclear tests, going so far as to stop them completely, Russian Federation representative Boris Krasulin declared in the discussion on Tuesday. Russia wants an appropriate international agreement to be drawn up, and the work of the disarmament conference to be stepped up to this end. This position is specifically stated in the one-year moratorium declared in October 1991 and extended by the Russian president's decree until 1 July 1993.

Russia is pleased with France's decision to halt its own nuclear tests until the end of 1992, the Russian Federation's delegate said. He recalled that in April of this year the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet called upon other nuclear states to follow the example of Russia and France and to halt their own nuclear tests.

We welcome the United States' recent decisions on nuclear tests, which show that there are constructive changes in approaches to the problem at issue. In the favorable situation currently emerging, it is important to give fresh impetus to the drive to ban nuclear tests and to step up efforts to seek mutually acceptable and effective practical solutions to the problems existing in this sphere, the Russian representative commented.

Belarusian Leader Welcomes Moratorium

*LD1910200192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Oct 92*

[Text] Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich welcomes the fact that Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree extending the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing until 1 July next year. I am convinced that this initiative will not remain unilateral, Stanislav Shushkevich told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in a telephone interview.

Ukrainian President Urges Wider Moratorium

*AU2010121492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 20 Oct 92*

[Text] In connection with the declaration by the United States, France, and Russia of a moratorium on nuclear tests, Ukraine's president Leonid Kravchuk has issued a statement, in which he points out, in particular, the following:

The recent decision adopted by France and the United States to temporarily stop tests of nuclear weapons and the extension by Russia of the moratorium on such tests have been met with approval in Ukraine, which has always been and continues to be consistently in favor of the total suspension of all nuclear tests. Such actions have a special meaning for Ukraine, whose people have suffered radioactive contamination as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

We hope that other states will also follow this logical step and that this will create an atmosphere of trust and the necessary preconditions for mankind's irreversible advancement toward the reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons and will, therefore, contribute to the building of a nuclear-free world.

CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Security Ministry Arrests Author of Article on Chemical Weapons

MK2310095592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 23 Oct 92 p 1

[“NG” report: “Chemical Armament Continues?”]

[Text] Russian Federation Security Ministry staffers have arrested Vil Mirzayanov, one of the authors of the article “Poisoned Policy” published in MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI on 20 September 1992. According to the Russian Federation Security Ministry Public Relations Center, the article revealed some information that constitutes a state secret. With the general prosecutor's approval, the journalist's apartment was searched, turning up proof confirming his participation in committing an action falling under Article 75 of the RSFSR Criminal Code.

The article claimed that the State Union Organic Chemistry and Technology Research Institute in Moscow has developed a new toxin and, moreover, has started production of industrial batches of binary weapons based on this toxin. According to the authors, these munitions underwent field testing at a facility on the Ustyurt plateau near the city of Nukus in the first quarter of this year.

Clearly, it is chiefly Vil Mirzayanov, a former staffer of the State Union Organic Chemistry and Technology Research Institute, who could have known such sensitive details. His coauthor, Professor Lev Fedorov, is a witness. As he told a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, he has no information about the use of secret documents in preparing the article, and he believes the facts cited in it were no secret to many of his colleagues.

The very fact of the arrest for “disclosing information” looks rather significant against the background of the fact that the draft convention prohibiting the development of chemical weapons referred to the 47th conference of the UN General Assembly was adopted this fall.

Deputies View Plans for CW Elimination Program

LD2710031292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1446 GMT 26 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct—The Russian parliament presidium discussed the problem of eliminating chemical weapons [CW] today. A draft on the “Complex Program of the Stage-By-Stage Elimination of Chemical Weapons in the Russian Federation” was presented to the presidium members and includes a clear-cut regulation procedure for this and defines the network of the sites that will be used for eliminating chemical ammunition. The sites will be allocated in the towns of Novocheboksarsk (in Chuvashiya), Kambarka (Udmurtiya), Volsk-17, and in the settlement of Gornyy (in Saratov Oblast).

There are plans to set up a national center for monitoring the elimination and nonproliferation of chemical weapons in Moscow. Specialists in various fields are expected to contribute to the committee's work.

ASIAN SECURITY ISSUES

CIS Forces Commander Hints at Reviewing Pullout From Isles

OW1710103992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT
17 Oct 92

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 17 KYODO—The commander of the joint forces of the former Soviet republics said Saturday Russia could reconsider its decision on the early withdrawal of troops from contested islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

In a written interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said, “Japan's harsh stand on the islands provokes a cautious sentiment” among the Russian people.

The head of the joint forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States said unilateral pullout of all the troops from the disputed islands seems “meaningless,” hinting at a reconsideration of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's pledge, made earlier this year, to withdraw the troops in a year or two.

At a regular consultation between Japanese and Russian foreign ministers last March, Russia's Andrey Kozyrev told Japan's Michio Watanabe that Russia has reduced the size of its forces on the Russian-held islands by 30 percent to 7,000.

Japan's Defense Agency says Russia also deploys some 40 MiG-23 fighter aircraft there.

Japan has long called for the return of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets, which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Tokyo has refused to provide Russia with economic assistance unless the territorial dispute is resolved.

Shaposhnikov also implied that settlement of the row should be shelved and left up to the next generation.

Although the Russian leadership revealed a step-by-step plan to demilitarize the islands, it is necessary to strengthen border guards in the region if demilitarization of the islands is implemented, the commander said.

Citing Japan's stand on the territorial row, Shaposhnikov also took a dim view of the idea of withdrawing all the troops from the islands.

"Japan is pressing a one-sided demand on this issue. We should not argue about the islands as long as we have conflicting stances of 'pro-return' and 'anti-return' (of the islands)," he said.

If Japan steps up economic cooperation in a show of its willingness to assist Russia and if "politicians in the new generations" understand that Japan is no enemy, the way will be opened for settlement of the territorial issue, Shaposhnikov said.

Shaposhnikov Remarks on Kurils Said To 'Stump' Japanese

PM2010102592 Moscow *IZVESTIYA* in Russian
20 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Marshal Shaposhnikov: Accelerated Demilitarization of South Kurils May Be Postponed"]

[Text] Tokyo—Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's written answers to KYODO's questions stumped Japan—via the mass media the commander in chief of the CIS troops told Tokyo that there is a possibility of Russia's promise to carry out the accelerated demilitarization of the disputed South Kuril Islands being reviewed.

The marshal pointed out that Tokyo's tough approach to the territorial problem is causing growing concern among Russians. The unilateral withdrawal of all army contingents from the disputed islands seems "pointless," Shaposhnikov went on to stress. Although the Russian leadership has put forward a plan for the phased demilitarization of the islands, over which fierce debates are under way, border forces must be reinforced in the region if this demilitarization is to be carried out. The marshal then added that in order to resolve the territorial issue Japan must establish economic cooperation with Russia and display goodwill in offering it economic aid and assistance. If politicians of future generations realize that Japan is not an enemy, the way to a territorial settlement will be open, that was how the marshal expressed his thoughts.

It must be said that this is not the first time that problems have arisen with demilitarization. A few months ago during the summer, a few days after entering

office, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev put forward the idea of revising the Russian initiatives on the demilitarization of the South Kurils. At the time Grachev's statement elicited a sharp response from Tokyo and a series of explanations from the Russian Foreign Ministry saying that Moscow has no intention of revoking Yeltsin's promise to complete the troop withdrawal from South Kurils in one or two years. This promise was reaffirmed at a meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers and represented a weighty plus point in the set of diplomatic arguments attesting to Russia's sincere desire to advance dialogue with Japan. The Grachev incident was reduced to an incorrect interpretation of what the minister had said and the incident was forgotten. Now, however, history is repeating itself, although someone else is making the statements.

There can be no doubts as to the interpretation this time since the answers were given in written form. Consequently, the marshal said precisely what he wanted to say and the Japanese are now concerned by one thing—to what extent the opinion of the commander of the CIS forces reflects the opinion of the Russian military and the Russian president. By clarifying these "spheres of authority," the Japanese are hoping to find a fitting solution and hear that Moscow's approach to the problem has not changed. But, since there have so far been no other statements from the Russian departments on Shaposhnikov's interview, things have been left hanging in midair and there is every chance of this becoming another source of the tension that has overshadowed bilateral contacts since Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo was canceled.

REPUBLIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUES

Data on Nuclear Weapons in Former Republics
92BA1462A Belgrade *VOJSKA* in Serbo-Croatian
10 Sep 92 p 58

[Article by Zoran Kalicanin: "In the Post-Cold War Period, American Analyses Show That It Is Cheaper To Finance the Economic Recovery of Russia, Ukraine, and Other Former Soviet Republics Than To Lose Control Over the Most Powerful Nuclear Potential in the World"]

[Text] Ukraine, third in size among the former Soviet republics, with an area of 600,000 square kilometers, and with about 54 million inhabitants (similar to France), is today one of the largest countries in Europe. With its huge military, economic, and human potential, Ukraine is a future regional power, with an unavoidable place in European and global affairs. The keen interest that the West is showing for the Little Russians, as Ukrainians are called in Slavophile circles, is tempting them to keep the nuclear potential they inherited after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk started his battle for the independence of his country by entering into a conflict with the Russian federation about the Black Sea fleet within which there is a nuclear potential. The ball was returned to the domestic court by opening the problem with the Crimea, which Nikita Khrushchev took away from Russia in 1954 and annexed to Ukraine. Dark clouds threatened Kiev and Moscow but a compromise was reached. The Black Sea fleet will be divided, and the Crimea will remain in Ukraine. CIA estimates pointed out that a breakup of the global partners does not preclude the possibility of a confrontation between the republics and of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of "enemy groups." Such a scenario caused the Western partners to panic because, in that moment, the only thing of interest to them was the fate of the nuclear arsenals of the former USSR. And, nothing else but that. Ukrainian leadership understood this very well, and apparently made a decision to cash in well on its withdrawing from the "atomic club."

Powerful Nuclear Arsenal

Most of the nuclear potential of the former USSR is on the territory of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. The strategic missile force is supported by some 164,000 people distributed over five missile armies with 1,388 intercontinental missiles. Among these, there are SS-11 "Sego" missiles with a 13,000-km range, with one to three warheads and a strength of two megatons—300 of these missiles are deployed at six bases; SS-13 "Savage" missiles with a 9,400-km range, with one warhead of 600 kilotons—40 of these missiles are deployed at one missile base; SS-17 "Spanker" missiles with a 10,000-km range, from one to four warheads whose very precise projectiles are intended for destruction of an enemy's missile silos—50 projectiles are deployed at one base; SS-18 "Satan" missiles, with a 10,000-km range, with six to 10 warheads of 500 to 750 kilotons—308 of these very precise intercontinental missiles are deployed at six bases; SS-19 "Stiletto" missiles with a 10,000-km range, with six warheads of 500 kilotons each—300 are deployed at four nuclear bases; SS-24 "Scalpel" missiles with a 10,000-km range, with 10 warheads that point independently, with each warhead of 100 kilotons—36 of 90 such missiles are on mobile launchers, and 54 are in underground silos; and 300 of the SS-25 "Sickle"-type missiles, with a 10,500-km range, and with one warhead of 750 kilotons.

These missiles are now in Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, but Belorussia and Kazakhstan have accepted the formula that these are Russian missiles on their territory. Special radar systems for scanning over the horizon (OTH-V) are near Kiev and Komsomolsk in Ukraine. Two of them are of highly strategic importance. A special AVM (antiballistic radar system), consisting of eight radars, forms a line starting at Boropovic, extending across Skundra (Belorussia), Muhacev (Ukraine), Olnogorsk (Kola Peninsula), Ljaks, Sarigan (Kazakhstan) Pecare (the Urals) to Miselovsk near Irkutsk. In the nuclear-war doctrine, the breakup of this

radar system has a priority role. By breaking-up the unified Soviet state, this task was undoubtedly carried out with success.

Nuclear Passion

There have been serious problems with ensuring adequate communications between the various missile units and the top command of the strategic powers within the Commonwealth of Independent States, so the communication network with the missile systems has been strengthened. The West is paying special attention to the Sarni base in Ukraine, where SS-25 missiles are deployed. It is a fact that on the territory of the former German Democratic Republic, there is still a strong nuclear power under the control of the Russian Army. Especially sensitive are the new types of missiles mounted on trucks, such as the SS-25, and the SS-24 missiles mounted on railroad cars.

For the launching of these missiles from railroad cars, 128,000 km of railroad bed has been laid, 10,000 tunnels, and 30,000 underground sites were built for hiding missile convoys. So far, Washington has discovered only three such locations: Kostrom, Perm, and Glatkaja. Five additional new strategic systems were planned to be in operational use by 1995. This planning probably made America realize that a radical reduction of the nuclear potential was in their interest. During the period of block-confrontation, intercontinental missiles, no matter how paradoxical it might seem, were a means of deterring war. Now, there is only one super-power, but new nuclear powers are emerging on the horizon. This is, perhaps, what motivated President Bush to sign the agreement on the drastic reduction of nuclear power with Boris Yeltsin in June 1992. The existing 20,223 nuclear warheads would be reduced to 6,500 over the next 10 years. America figured out that it was cheaper to finance the economic recovery of Russia, Ukraine, and other republics from the former Soviet Union than to lose control over the most powerful nuclear potential in the world. How far Ukraine will go in this "game" of scaring the West with its nuclear stocks in order to ensure loans for its economy will be evident very soon.

Kazakh President on Nuclear Disarmament Plans

LD0610051792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0120 GMT 6 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Excerpts] United Nations, 6 Oct—If separatism develops further in the former USSR, "puppet dictatorships threatening global peace" may emerge on its territory. This was stated by Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev at a news conference at UN headquarters on Monday. [passage omitted]

Touching upon the question of nuclear weapons in Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev pointed out: "Kazakhstan did not become a nuclear state of its own accord. The republic has overcome this problem by signing the

Lisbon protocol on joining the START Treaty. Since Kazakhstan is now recognized as a participant in the treaty and will be involved in further negotiations, and in connection with setting up the collective security system involving seven CIS states, Kazakhstan has relinquished its original intention to remain a nuclear state until all nuclear warheads will have been destroyed."

Therefore, in accordance with the START Treaty, in the course of seven years, i.e. until 1999, Kazakhstan will be cutting its nuclear armaments in the same proportions which would have been applicable to the former Soviet Union. At the same time, Kazakhstan and Russia, bound by the defense treaty, "will decide for themselves where to station nuclear weapons in the future." [passage omitted]

Shaposhnikov Ready To Hand Nuclear Forces Over to Russia

MK0810084792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Oct 92 p 1

[“Exclusive” interview with Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, CIS commander in chief, by Pavel Felgengauer in Paris; date not given; under the “Army” rubric: “CIS Problems Will be Discussed at Top-Level Meeting in Bishkek Today. Marshal Shaposhnikov: ‘I Am Prepared To Hand Over Nuclear Briefcase to Russian Defense Ministry Even Today’”]

[Text] In several of his last public speeches (including 29 September at the Paris colloquium at which defense ministers of the main West European countries had gathered), Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS, proposed that all the strategic forces of the former Union be transferred immediately to Russian jurisdiction, without waiting until 1994, as had been proposed earlier. The situation in the strategic nuclear forces will be discussed at the top-level meeting in Bishkek, and it must be assumed that not all “nuclear” CIS states will support the commander in chief’s stance. Nevertheless, Marshal Shaposhnikov agreed to explain Russia’s stance (and that of the CIS High Command) in an exclusive interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA at the end of the colloquium in Paris.

[Felgengauer] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, you have stated that all the former Union’s nuclear weapons should immediately become Russian, including those that are now located on the territory of other independent states. Is this now your official stance as commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, that is my official stance. If we have found it possible to divide up conventional armed forces and weapons in a more or less civilized way, then it is particularly imperative that we do not leave such terrible weapons as nuclear weapons without specific national state control.

[Felgengauer] But in that case what will the CIS High Command control if the strategic forces, too, are removed from its jurisdiction?

[Shaposhnikov] When I discussed this problem with one of the four leaders of the CIS “nuclear” states, he made strong allusions to the fact that “your status will also decrease considerably then.” I would like to say loud and clear through your newspaper that for me the question of which state has ownership of the nuclear forces is more important than my personal status. I am prepared to hand over the nuclear briefcase to the Russian Defense Ministry today or tomorrow (with the agreement of the other states). A different formula is also possible, but one state should be responsible for nuclear weapons.

[Felgengauer] Incidentally, speaking of the “nuclear briefcase”: you are in Paris with me now, so who is now in control of the nuclear “button” in the CIS?

[Shaposhnikov] President Yeltsin and I have elaborated a reliable control system, so no one should have any doubts about that. Everything is in order.

[Felgengauer] The command of the Strategic Rocket Forces changed recently. General Maksimov left and was replaced by General Smirnov....

[Shaposhnikov] General Maksimov did not leave. He was appointed to the post of commander of the CIS Strategic Forces by all the CIS heads of state. He was simply combining two posts: commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces and of the CIS Strategic Forces. Now Russia has appointed a new commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces, and Maksimov has remained as commander of the CIS Strategic Forces. However, Maksimov will probably leave this post, too, and one of the possible options is that I will fulfill his duties during a transitional period. Unless, of course, the CIS heads of state decide to transfer all strategic nuclear forces to Russia. I will raise this issue at the conference of CIS heads of state in Bishkek.

[Felgengauer] Until now, the Russian Federation’s official stance was that until the beginning of 1994, while part of the nuclear weapons of the former Union are in fact deployed on the territory of other independent states, they will be under joint command and single command at the same time. And only in 1994 will the status of nuclear power be finally and fully transferred to Russia. Tell me, has your present official stance been coordinated with the Russian leadership?

[Shaposhnikov] It has been coordinated with President Yeltsin and the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense. This is our joint stance. However, certain leaders of other states are maintaining that “while nuclear weapons are located on our territory, you, Yevgeniy Ivanovich, will be our ears and eyes” in this supposedly joint system of command and control.

[Felgengauer] In purely territorial terms, the services that control the strategic nuclear weapons have not

relocated anywhere in connection with the creation of the CIS High Command in the complex of buildings at 41 Leningradskoye Shosse in Moscow. They seem to have been "inherited" by the Russian Defense Ministry from the USSR Defense Ministry. So how do you, Yevgeniy Ivanovich, specifically control our strategic nuclear potential?

[Shaposhnikov] We have the decree of President Yeltsin, which was signed back in December 1991 after former USSR President Gorbachev handed over the "nuclear button" to him. This document sets everything out, and no changes have been made since then. I have not encountered any friction with the relevant Russian Defense Ministry structures. We are operating in accordance with the presidential decree.

[Felgengauer] And has this decree been published?

[Shaposhnikov] It is secret.

[Felgengauer] So, you are insisting on the formation of CIS joint peacekeeping forces?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes. The situation in Tajikistan and other CIS countries demands the formation of such forces. All CIS leaders will understand sooner or later that it is necessary to form joint forces.

Russian Official on Ukraine Nuclear Arms Status

PM1210123792 Moscow *IZVESTIYA* in Russian
10 Oct 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev, Vasiliy Kononenko, and Aleksandr Ryabushkin: "Serious Disagreements Avoided in Bishkek: CIS Heads of State and Government Hold Meeting in Bishkek 9 October"]

[Excerpts] Before every routine meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State the classic question is asked: Will the commonwealth exist or not? On 9 October, the day the latest session of the CIS heads of state opens in Bishkek, this question loses its relevance. [passage omitted]

As A. Kotenkov, chief of the Russian President's State and Law Administration, who took part in preparing the documents for the session, said in conversation with your *IZVESTIYA* correspondent, the Commonwealth seems to be entering a new phase in its existence. Three levels of relations within the CIS are emerging. First, Moldova and Azerbaijan, which have not ratified the agreement on accession to the CIS, may be regarded as being outside this formation. Second, there is a CIS nucleus of five states which signed the Collective Security Treaty in Tashkent in May this year. Third, the attitude of the independent states toward the problem of nuclear weapons is the litmus test whereby a rough list of members of a "strong" Commonwealth can be determined. The consultations on the eve of the meeting showed that there are no problems with Belarus here—it has acknowledged that all the nuclear forces stationed on

its territory are Russian. There is complete understanding for this approach with Kazakhstan, too. As for Ukraine, L. Kravchuk said on arrival in Bishkek that the present status of the nuclear forces in Ukraine suits him. But servicemen in the units servicing the nuclear forces are taking the Ukrainian oath and are fully accountable under Ukrainian laws. Meanwhile, the mandatory check of the state of the missile launchers is not being carried out because the specialists needed are all in Russia. If an "irregular situation" ["neshtatnaya situatsiya"] or something more complex occurs, who will be responsible for the consequences of a nuclear catastrophe? Russia is proposing that the nuclear missiles be taken off alert status and their warheads be stored on Ukrainian territory until the question of their transport to Russia for destruction is resolved. We are proposing compensation equivalent to the cost of the nuclear missile warheads, the chief of the State and Law Administration said. If this suggestion is adopted by the Ukrainian side, it will be the most acceptable and effective means of ensuring the nuclear safety of the Commonwealth and the world. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian Nuclear Status Said Still Unsettled After Bishkek Summit

PM1410111992 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA*
in Russian 14 Oct 92 p 1

[Lieutenant Colonel Anatoliy Dokuchayev article: "There Must Be No Misunderstandings on the Problem of Russia's Nuclear Legacy: Only One Place in the 'World Nuclear Club'—Russia's"]

[Text] Bishkek has again highlighted the question of the strategic nuclear weapons inherited from the USSR by four states: 80 percent of them by Russia, 10 percent by Ukraine, 6 percent by Kazakhstan, and 4 percent by Belarus. The results of the CIS heads of state meeting are now known. The leaders of some of the republics have set out their views on this problem, as has Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

As is well known, the status of the strategic forces has changed significantly in a short period. On 21 December last year a compromise was reached by Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. The agreement they signed specified that the nuclear weapons belonging to the joint strategic forces ensure the collective security of all the CIS members. On 30 December it was laid down that, prior to the complete elimination of the nuclear weapons stationed on Belarusian and Ukrainian territory, the decision on the need to use them is to be taken by the president of Russia with the agreement of the heads of the states parties to the agreement on the basis of special procedures. Belarus and Ukraine pledged to affiliate to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Kazakhstan also subsequently announced its intention to become a non-nuclear state.

At the conference on aid to the states of the former Soviet Union held in Lisbon on 23 May, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine, plus the United States, signed a protocol to the START Treaty. This document requires Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan to affiliate to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Formally speaking, the debate about the nuclear legacy is over: The Soviet Union's place in the "world nuclear club" has been taken by one state—Russia. Moscow now bears full responsibility for nuclear safety. Legally speaking, the nuclear weapons become the "state property" of Russia.

That is also the position of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command, and was reaffirmed at a news conference by Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. I want the nuclear weapons, he said, to be under Russian jurisdiction, control [kontrol], and management [upravleniye]. Prior to Bishkek the High Command did a lot of work to harmonize as much as possible the viewpoints of the four states' leaderships with the positions enshrined in Lisbon. It is presumed that full control over all the nuclear weapons would be transferred to Russia after the conclusion of special bilateral agreements with Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. It goes without saying that, even after these procedures, the strategic forces would continue to perform tasks in the interests of the whole CIS under dual control of the Russian Defense Ministry and the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command.

Minsk stated its position most clearly. The status of the nuclear weapons stationed in Belarus is defined by the treaty between it and Russia on coordinating military activity and the agreement on the Strategic Forces temporarily stationed on the republic's territory (both were signed 20 July 1992). They note, among other things, that the Strategic Forces pass to the jurisdiction of Russia and the operational subordination of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. They serve the interests of the Commonwealth. The documents stress that the two states' military departments cooperate with the High Command on maintaining the combat readiness of troops and their nuclear security and supporting combat training and day-to-day activity.

The command and control system [sistema upravleniya] is an integral part of the corresponding system of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Strategic Forces and is not part of the command and control system of the Armed Forces of Belarus. The Russian Federation is responsible for observing the norms of environmental safety. Fixed-term servicemen are to be recruited to the units by drafting citizens from the two republics according to set quotas. It is envisaged that the "Belarusian" forces will be reduced by withdrawing them to Russian territory over a seven-year period, as in the START Treaty, according to a prearranged schedule.

Recently, however, Minsk has decided to tighten that schedule. After Bishkek, Supreme Soviet Chairman Shushkevich stated that units of the Strategic Forces may be withdrawn within two and a half years.

By all accounts, Alma-Ata is also close to concluding a similar agreement with Moscow. The relevant documents were prepared during talks 18-19 August between a Russian military delegation headed by Viktor Dubynin, chief of the General Staff, and the leadership of the Kazakhstan Defense Ministry.

But Kiev has a different approach to the nuclear weapons stationed on its territory. Since Lisbon, Kiev has repeatedly stated that it does not crave the nuclear button but must be sure that nuclear weapons will never be used from Ukrainian territory by decision of another state. Fine words, but last June the Ukrainian president issued a decree whereby all groupings of nuclear forces stationed in the republic were included in the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Defense Ministry has begun creating a special management body—the Center for the Administrative Control of the Strategic Forces. This is a move toward the dual control of nuclear weapons, which sharply restricts the functions of the Strategic Forces command and directly breaches the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Kiev, justifying its actions by saying that there cannot be foreign troops on the republic's territory (a reference to a Supreme Soviet decision), has essentially eliminated Moscow from recruitment to the units, the selection and appointment of the command, and the solution of many other questions connected with the functioning of the strategic systems. Only operational leadership has been left to the command of the Strategic Forces. At the same time Moscow is being asked to take responsibility for nuclear safety—that is, for the actions of Ukrainian specialists—which of course is unacceptable. The peoples of the Commonwealth can expect no good from this kind of "game," it is just too dangerous.

There has been movement in Ukraine's position recently. Thus, directly before the Bishkek meeting the High Command prepared a draft Protocol Memorandum on the CIS Joint Armed Forces Strategic Forces. It stressed that the combat control of the Strategic Forces will be exercised jointly by the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command and the Russian Defense Ministry. At Ukraine's request, however, this item was dropped from the document. Leonid Kravchuk noted that it was more appropriate to return to it after the Russo-Ukrainian talks on nuclear arms. The president promised that Kiev would not improve the nuclear weapons command and control system in the meantime.

As a result, a Protocol Decision was adopted in Bishkek whereby the heads of state relieved Army General Yuriy Maksimov of the duties of commander in connection with his retirement request. The duties of commander of the Strategic Forces have been entrusted to Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov. It was confirmed at the news conference that the nuclear button remains under the control of the High Command.

Therefore, Bishkek has not removed the nuclear question from the agenda for the Commonwealth's peoples.

The "club of four" still exists within the CIS. It will take considerable effort and mutual understanding to clear this matter up once and for all.

Shaposhnikov on Differences With Ukraine Over Weapons

*LD1710072292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1218 GMT 16 Oct 92*

[Text] Moscow October 16 TASS—Differences with Ukraine over strategic nuclear forces remain, Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Allied Armed Forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said in an ITAR-TASS interview, set forth in the "24" newspaper.

He explained the essence of differences with Ukraine. According to Shaposhnikov, the Ukrainian side believes that if control systems and warheads are removed from missiles, they cease to be armaments and become a property which can be sold with a profit for oneself.

CIS leaders signed in Bishkek a document on the Chief Command of the CIS Allied Armed Forces. It defines "the international legal status of the Chief Command and its main functions, tasks, order of formation and financing," Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

According to Shaposhnikov, this does not mean that every state should make its troops part of the Allied Armed Forces. "There are weapons systems, however, for example the anti-aircraft defence system, which were created without taking into consideration the borders existing today. It would be far less expensive to reach

agreement on cooperation, than to create an anti-aircraft defence system in every CIS member state," he explained.

Belarus Approves Schedule for Withdrawal of Nuclear Missiles

*OW2610200292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1931 GMT 26 Oct 92*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By instruction of Belarusian Supreme Council Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, a schedule for the withdrawal of nuclear missiles from Belarus to Russia has been drawn up and approved.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to the Lisbon protocol of the Vienna agreement, which was signed by Belarus, the republic must become a non-nuclear state within seven years.

For two years, the withdrawal of military equipment and 81 intercontinental ballistic missiles has been taking shape. Eight missile brigades will leave Belarus in 1993, and the same number in 1994. It is expected that by 30 December 1994, Belarus will be non-nuclear. In June 1995, the last sub-unit of the command and military support of the strategic nuclear missiles will be sent to Russia.

According to INTERFAX's information, the Russian leadership is in agreement with the schedule for the withdrawal of strategic nuclear missiles.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

NATO Defense Ministers Discuss Nuclear Strategy

AU2010093492 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT
20 Oct 92

[Text] Gleneagles, Scotland, Oct 20 (AFP)—Defense ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation opened Tuesday [20 October] two days of talks on nuclear strategy and the future of an alliance struggling to find new purpose after the cold war.

Officials said no major announcements were expected from the meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group [NPG] a year after the NPG slashed its stockpile of tactical nuclear arms by 80 percent.

They said non-nuclear issues such as a possible peace-keeping role for NATO, lessons from the conflict in ex-Yugoslavia and the alliance's relations with the Western European Union defense group, would occupy a large part of the agenda.

The NPG groups defense ministers from the United States, Canada and NATO's 14 European members except France, which left the alliance's integrated military command in 1967, and Iceland, which is an observer.

A NATO official conceded the meeting was largely symbolic to convey the message that the alliance still puts great stock in its nuclear arm, even if it is facing no real nuclear threat.

The NPG meeting in Sicily last year cut NATO's stockpile of tactical nuclear warheads in Europe from 3,600 to some 700 airborne nuclear bombs.

But officials said concern lingered whether Russia had fulfilled its pledge to withdraw all its sea-based tactical nuclear weapons.

Other nuclear issues on the agenda, they said, were modernisation of forces and the question of testing following the moratoria announced by the United States, Russia and France.

France, Britain View Nuclear Cooperation at NATO Talks

PM2310111092 Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Oct 92 p 19

[Unattributed report: "Paris and London Want To Coordinate Their Nuclear Deterrence Policies"]

[Text] Britain and France have started informal exploratory discussions on coordinating their nuclear deterrence policies, British Defense Minister Malcolm Rifkind said on Tuesday, 20 October, at the Gleneagles meeting (in Scotland) of NATO defense ministers. Questioned on the U.S. reaction to the prospect of such Franco-British coordination, Mr. Rifkind said that he

had mentioned this initiative to the NATO Nuclear Planning Group and that it had met with exclusively favorable opinions.

Preliminary Stage

French Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy recently called for discussions between France (which is not part of the NATO integrated command) and Britain with a view to coordination in the nuclear deterrence sphere.

Mr. Rifkind said that the two countries agreed to discuss "means by which they could identify common points for tackling nuclear questions in order to strengthen defense in Europe as a whole. We are at the stage at which we are having completely informal discussions and are trying to determine the specific subjects which it would be most useful to examine in the initial phase of these discussions." "I am sure," the British minister added, "that discussions proper will take place, but we are currently at a preliminary stage."

Mr. Rifkind explained that he was keeping the United States informed of these discussions and that no major developments could be expected in the coming months.

GERMANY

FRG To Aid CIS Nuclear Weapons Destruction

AU2310101292 Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG
in German 20 Oct 92 p 4

[Dietmar Seher report: "Help for Nuclear Disarmament"]

[Text] Bonn—Germany will help with massive financial assistance to destroy the formerly Soviet nuclear weapons, which is also an initial reaction to many attempts by criminals to smuggle nuclear materials to other countries.

According to information obtained by BERLINER ZEITUNG, the Bundestag Budget Committee has decided to allocate 10 million German marks from the Foreign Ministry budget for this purpose. The aid should not be paid in cash but rather provided in the form of transportation, protective and safety equipment, measuring instruments, and basic and advanced training.

In the former Soviet Union, 33,000 nuclear warheads have to be destroyed. Carl-Ludwig Thiele, Free Democratic Party Bundestag deputy, says that "these weapons and the biological and chemical combat agents are a danger to the world after the end of the cold war." Direct disarmament aid to the CIS was not intended originally. Only as a result of certain events—not only the smuggling incidents but also the quarrels among the CIS governments over possession of the weapons—did the Bundestag Budget Committee act.

The smuggling scandals are putting particular pressure on the FRG Government. The Social Democratic Party

of Germany demands the expansion of the Military Materiel Control Law, and 10 years ago an internal Federal study said that one day the FRG might become the victim of nuclear blackmail by criminals....

Defense Minister on NATO Nuclear First Strike Doctrine

*AU2210093792 Hamburg ARD Television Network
in German 2130 GMT 21 Oct 92*

[Interview with German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe by Heinz Wickert on 21 October; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Wickert] You attended the meeting of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group. There it was affirmed again that the concept of the nuclear first strike would be adhered to. Why?

[Ruehe] I do not know what kind of information you have received. It is correct that we have reduced all the things that existed in the past in terms of nuclear strategy. The number of nuclear weapons has declined drastically, and in particular in Germany's interest it must be clear that in the future, nuclear weapons will exist only to deter the use of the other side's nuclear weapons. This is a completely new strategy.

[Wickert] Yes, but the old strategy remains. One sticks with the nuclear first strike.

[Ruehe] No, this is not correct in this way. In Rome, we started to reorient the NATO strategy, which is called MC-400. In the meantime, there have been further changes: the collapse of the Soviet Union, the START agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. For me, Gleneagles is an interim step, and I said so there. The debate will continue. What is most important, however, is the fact that Germany's nuclear security dilemma—that for over 40 years we were in danger of using nuclear weapons on our own territory to deter the other side—has been abolished. And this is the real great success, that we have achieved this now, that now different rules apply.

[Wickert] And what are the different rules?

[Ruehe] Very importantly, that nuclear weapons are only political weapons and that we have really moved away from the precise target planning that existed in the past; and that, by the way, we also want to make sure, together with the Americans, that nuclear weapons, which exist as a legacy in the Soviet Union, are made safe and disposed of in a sensible way; that we want to help to provide

safeguards for scientists who up to now have worked in the nuclear field, so that the nuclear danger does not spread all over the world.

[Wickert] Thank you very much, Mr. Ruehe.

[Ruehe] You are welcome, Mr. Wickert. [end recording]

UNITED KINGDOM

'Radical' Navy Plan on Readiness, Mothballing

*LD2510085192 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 0608 GMT 25 Oct 92*

[By PRESS ASSOCIATION defense correspondent Charles Miller]

[Text] More than a third of the Royal Navy fleet will be kept at a low state of readiness with some ships in mothballs under radical cost-cutting plans. According to naval sources, the secret proposals will create the equivalent of a first and second division of warships. However, the plans will effectively allow the Navy to run a fleet of 38 frigates and destroyers with a budget for just 36. The Government is committed to maintaining an escort fleet of "about 40" frigates and destroyers under its Options for Change cutbacks.

It is understood that a "first division" of 24 frigates and destroyers will be created to undertake primary national and NATO tasks. These ships will be fully manned with a full range of equipment and weapons. The majority of the other 14 vessels will be run at a low state of readiness with small crews and without their full complement of weapons. They will be given less important, alternative tasks mainly around British waters.

But at least one is likely to be put into mothballs—what the Navy calls "extended readiness"—with skeleton crews. The Leander class frigate Andromeda is expected to be the first to go into mothballs next year before being paid off. The precise number of ships in mothballs will depend on future budget plans. It is understood the ships will be moved between the various states of readiness on a cyclical basis. The system, which will also apply to the mine countermeasures fleet, already operates with the Navy's three aircraft carriers as there are insufficient crews and aircraft to man them. At present, the carriers Ark Royal and Invincible are fully operational with Illustrious undergoing a major refit.

"We are adjusting the readiness of the fleet to the new strategic environment following the end of the Cold War," said one source.

Government Rejects Moratorium on Nuclear Testing

*LD2610202992 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1732 GMT 26 Oct 92*

[By Len Freeman, PRESS ASSOCIATION parliamentary staff]

[Text] Britain will not join Russia and France in a moratorium on nuclear testing, the government made clear today. Baroness Trumpington said a minimal testing programme would continue as a means of

ensuring "the safety and credibility of our nuclear deterrent". Her comments came in a written reply to Lord Jenkins of Putney who had asked whether the U.S. decision to join Russia and France in a moratorium meant the UK could be forced to do the same.

Baroness Trumpington said: "The UK does not intend to declare a moratorium...we believe as does the U.S. Administration, that a minimal testing programme continues to be the best means of ensuring the safety and credibility of our nuclear deterrent. However it is not practicable for the UK to test while the U.S. Government is itself unable to do so."

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